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$15K donated for Koblerville basketball court rehab. PAGE 3
Federal judge OKs 3 CUC projects worth $5M. PAGE 5

DPW: IPI conditional permit out soon

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Works Secretary James Ada said their Building Safety Code Division had been meeting almost every day with representatives of Imperial Pacific International (CNM) LLC to make sure that construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort complies with federal laws.

Ada clarified that they have yet to issue a certificate of building occupancy to the casino resort since division personnel are still inspecting the building so no problem would come up once the casino starts operations.

"Some people are misinformed that we already gave out a certificate of building occupancy. Not yet. We don't and it is still in the inspection stage. Our building inspectors are going there," said Ada.

"There are IPI representatives to

See DPW on Page 4

Ex-cop gets 1-year in prison for beating cop wife

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former police officer with prior criminal and traffic convictions who beat up his wife, also a police officer, last January was slapped with a maximum sentence of one-year in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho told 39-year-old Ramon Saures Kaipat that "everyone deserves a chance" but also warned him not to squander that chance.

"If you listen carefully, it says a chance. It does not say everyone deserves many chances," said the judge.

Kaipat was given credit for two months and 15 days of time served.

Camacho said he remembers administering the oath for the new police graduates, including Kaipat,

See EX-COP on Page 4

CUC board OKs suit vs Yaquinto

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would be filing a criminal case against its former chief financial officer, Matthew Yaquinto.

The CUC board, at its special meeting on Tuesday, gave the go signal for the criminal lawsuit against Yaquinto and others, based on findings made by current CFO, Antonio Castro.

The names of the others who will be sued was not disclosed. The basis for the lawsuit was also not disclosed.

CUC board member Eric San

See CUC on Page 4

The cable ship *Responder* is docked at the Charlie Dock of Saipan. Other photo shows Docomo Pacific chief executive officer Jonathan Kriegel, center, explaining to Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, far right, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from right, and first lady Diann Torres, third from right, what ATISA has in store for the CNMI.
ERWIN ENCINARES

ATISA comes ashore today

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific's latest project called ATISA—which aims to tie the Marianas together in one undersea fiber optic network cable—is expected to wade ashore today.

According to Docomo Pacific chief executive officer Jonathan Kriegel, the new fiber optic cable, after preparations that started in late 2016, is expected to come up to shore today, and the telecommunications firm will be hosting a landing ceremony at the Aquarius Beach Tower.

ATISA is Docomo Pacific's fiber-optic cable system that comes in at 175 miles in length. ATISA would

See ATISA on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA
New South Korean President Moon Jae-in is open to visiting rival North Korea.
PAGE 18

ENVIRONMENT
In San Francisco Bay, a huge die-off of leopard sharks and bat rays has sparked concerns.
PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE
"Alien: Covenant" is, itself, a homecoming of sorts for a well-traveled franchise.
PAGE 20

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Local

Senate aims to address landfill issues

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate committees on Fiscal Affairs and Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications held separate public meetings to address the issues regarding the CNMI's landfills, particularly the one in Marpi.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), said the Department of Public Works has requested the CNMI Legislature's assistance in the construction of Cell 3 of the Marpi landfill, which would be done in phases.

DPW Secretary James A. Ada sent a letter to legislative leaders about this.

"The biggest thing that we need to focus on right now is to address DPW's request. It is urgent where they need funding to prepare Cell 3. [DPW would need], their initial assessment, $5.5 million based on their letter," said Hofschneider.

The money that DPW is asking for would fund the lining of Cell 3 and would also address the other needs of the Marpi landfill.

Sen. SIxto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), who chairs the Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee, said that DPW would take about 21 to 22 months to prepare Cell 3 once they get the funds for the project.

"Cell 3 is filling up quickly at a really fast pace. At least an average of 80 to 120 tons of garbage are going to Cell 1 and [DPW] really needs to align Cell 3, so they could start filling up Cell 2," said Igisomar.

"Eventually, the slope coming from Cell 1, the debris would slide down to Cell 2. Cell 3 is urgent, it is an emergency, and they need to get the funding. That's why we held a meeting so that people can hear what's happening in our landfill," added Igisomar.

He added they called in Ada so they could have a better understanding of the situation and their request for $5.5 million to fund the project.

"[The project] has three to four phases in there. It has to do with the architecture/engineering design, then [request for proposals], and the hiring of a construction management [team]," said Igisomar, who added that that would already cost $100,000.

DPW's request

Ada, in his letter, said they are requesting for financial assistance to prepare Cell 3 of the Marpi landfill with the project to be done in phases. He added the project is an urgent need with the rapid development of Saipan.

"It appears that Saipan's economy is moving quickly in a vibrant and positive direction. And with all the proposed hotels in the planning and construction stages, it means more waste will be generated from [construction and designs], tourism, and guests. Eventually, [the trash] would end up at the landfill," said Ada.

"As you may be aware of, the present outlook for Saipan's waste disposal infrastructure capacity, which needs to be expanded for our growing economic activity, is diminishing at a rapid rate, and Cell 1 has reached its final fill stage and in desperate need to expand to Cell 2."

He added that the need to begin construction of Cell 3 would prevent the migration of leachate or contaminants into the groundwater from Cell 2 to the unlined Cell 3.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IT&E general manager Rose Soledad, second from left, Customer Service manager Janice Tenorio, third from left, Customer Operations director Rob Harrell, right, and IP&E representatives hand off a $15,000 donation to Rep. Lee Pan Guerrero, Glenna Reyes, and Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres last Friday.

$15,000 donated for Koblerville basketball court's rehabilitation

During a short ceremony with government officials last Friday, IP&E and IT&E presented a $15,000 donation to the CNMI government for the rehabilitation of the Koblerville basketball court.

"For many years, IT&E has been a great supporter of community events and sports activities. We acknowledge that our youth need a safe place to come together. Many of our villages have community centers in need of rehabilitation and we try our best to assist when we can," according to IT&E general manager Rose Soledad.

The donation was initiated by a letter received from House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair Rep. Leepan Guerrero, seeking corporate sponsors for community facilities.

Guerrero noted that the Koblerville basketball court is in need of repairs to become a suitable facility for tournaments and community use. He commended IT&E and IP&E for their contribution and dedication to community projects in the CNMI.

"This project began when our office conducted a survey and were saddened to have found drug related paraphernalia. After this project is completed, I'd like to establish it as a drug-free zone. Rehabilitating this facility would reduce truancy and limit drug-related activities in the area. IT&E has been a tremendous and generous partner of the community," Guerrero said, adding that the preventive maintenance against vandalism after the completion of the Koblerville basketball court would be under the purview of his office.

Soledad added that in alignment with providing free high-speed internet for youth centers in the CNMI, a suitable facility for physical activity improves community engagement and enrichment. ***(IT&E)***

Domestic violence program is dissolved

The Domestic Violence Intervention Center Program was dissolved during a special meeting on Dec. 30, 2016, by the Family Violence Task Force. The members of the FVTF made a unanimous decision during the annual meeting of Jan. 12, 2017, that the victim services provided through DVIC will continue to be provided by partner agencies.

Effective Jan. 30, 2017, the advocates assigned at the DVIC Office on Capital Hill Building 1233 were relocated to the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit of the Office of the Attorney General in Susupe. The FVTF will maintain the former DVIC office as Lugat Pas/ Lelyal Ghilammwey/ Place of Peace.

Lugat Pas will serve the CNMI as a domestic violence resource and advocacy center. The center will continue to be the safe space to facilitate positive partnerships among FVTF members and will address issues and concerns related to domestic and family violence in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Multinational exercise to take place in both Guam and NMI

U.S. Marine Corps and multinational forces of Japan, France and the United Kingdom will participate in Jeanne D'Arc Multinational Exercise in Guam, on Tinian, and in the surrounding waters of both islands from May 11 to May 18.

Jeanne D'Arc is a French-led exercise. The goal is to facilitate interaction between militaries, which enhance our combined readiness in response to crises and disaster throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Elements from the Third Marine Expeditionary Force will join amphibious forces aboard the French Navy amphibious assault ship FS *Mistral* and La Fayette-class frigate FS *Courbet*. Forces from Japan and the United Kingdom will also participate.

In Guam, the exercise will begin May 12. On Tinian, some troops will arrive at San Jose Harbor and transit north on Broadway starting May 15.

Forces participating include approximately 90 U.S. Marines attached to III MEF and smaller units of Japanese and French forces. Two British helicopters will also be involved in the ground portions of the exercise. ***(PR)***

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Hyatt golf classic beneficiaries receive $60K

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic raised $60,000 that went to six groups. The checks were presented yesterday at Hyatt's Giovanni's Restaurant.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic raised $60,000 that went to six groups. The checks were presented yesterday at Hyatt's Giovanni's Restaurant.

For the past 20 years, Hyatt has hosted the annual golf classic in order to raise funds that will be donated to its primary beneficiary, the Make-a-Wish Foundation and another beneficiary of their choice. This year, Hyatt chose six beneficiaries, including their primary beneficiary.

According to Hyatt Marketing and Communications manager Maria Valentina Haberman, for the few remaining years of Hyatt's lease, it will push to help the community even more, starting with benefitting more organizations.

This year's golf classic raised $60,000, which is $1,000 more than was raised last year.

Of that amount, $15,000 went to Hyatt's primary beneficiary and $9,000 was allotted for each of the other five beneficiaries. Only five beneficiaries were present for the awarding of the checks. The last beneficiary will be awarded at a separate time.

As Hyatt's primary beneficiary for 20 years, Make-a-Wish Foundation received $15,000.

According to board member Kanae Quinn, the donation will go straight to funding the wishes that the foundation receives. Most of the wishes require a lot of financial support.

One of the beneficiaries chosen this year was the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. According to Haberman, the hotel chose to sponsor the organization's cause because it protects the indigenous culture of the Commonwealth.

Council vice chair Brady Hammond said the donation will be used to carry out the council's ongoing programs like junior mock trial, poetry competitions, humanities film festivals, and many more.

Another beneficiary, the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, will use a portion of the donation to fund the organization's first summer program. According organization chair Rose Smith, the foundation aims to assist vulnerable widows and children.

According to Marianas Behavioral Health International office manager Doreen Kintol, the donation will fund the organization's upcoming projects.

Another beneficiary, Karidat Social Services, will use the donation to fund the programs that Karidat offers and will also fund supplies needed to help the homeless in the Commonwealth.

EX-COP

From Page 1

only last year. The judge said he imposes the maximum sentence on Kaipat so he and other law enforcers remember their sworn duty and are deterred from committing crimes.

Camacho pointed out that Kaipat has prior convictions where he received lenient sentences.

Kaipat has two prior convictions for disturbing the peace and assault and battery. He also has two temporary restraining orders in which the petitioner is also the wife, plus another TRO involving another woman. Kaipat also had eight traffic cases, including one for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilbersheild had recommended a prison sentence of six months and other conditions.

Defense counsel Rosemond Santos had recommended prison sentence of 30 days with credit for time served.

According to police, Kaipat hit his wife several times on the head and body using his hands and knees on Jan. 13, 2017 on Saipan. Police learned that the couple had just come from a party for patrol officers at a hotel. While the wife was talking with her sister on the cellphone, Kaipat allegedly grabbed the phone and her hair and beat her up.

CUC

From Page 1

Nicolas made the motion to file a civil case. It was approved unanimously. There was also a recommendation to file a criminal case through the Attorney General's Office against Yaquinto.

According to San Nicolas: "I would like to make a motion to ratify CUC board chair Adelina Roberto's actions instructing CUC executive director Gary Camacho to file a civil case and to file through the Attorney General's Office a recommended criminal case against our former CFO Matthew Yaquinto as a result of investigations brought forth by our current CFO Antonio Castro."

San Nicolas pointed out that the decision to file a case against Yaquinto arises from an ongoing investigation and was not a "decision made spontaneously."

"This is [a decision] made from facts and the reports submitted by the CFO's office. It is an unfortunate fact but, despite being criticized, we have to think about [CUC], and this is one avenue. This is not an immediate reaction," said San Nicolas.

He declined to comment when asked to clarify the allegations against Yaquinto.

San Nicolas claimed he is unable to entertain inquiries surrounding the lawsuit.

"I cannot comment on that. That [information] is still under the advisement of our legal counsel. Perhaps when we file [the case], and it becomes public record, maybe at that point is when we can provide information but as of this moment we cannot," he said.

San Nicolas also denied that the decision was made as a counterclaim against Yaquinto and former CUC public information officer Brad Ruszala.

"I understand we are being sued, but as a [member of the] board of directors, we have to protect the interests of CUC," he said.

Yaquinto and Ruszala filed a lawsuit last Nov. 9, 2016, against most members of the CUC board—CUC board chair Adelina C. Roberto and board members Eric C. San Nicolas, Joseph T. Torres, Ignacio L. Perez, and Albert A. Taitano—for violations of the Open Government Act, Government Ethics Code, and U.S. District for the NMI stipulated order.

Yaquinto and Ruszala alleged that CUC board members were guilty of holding closed-door meetings under the guise of "executive sessions" and abusing their positions for private financial gain for themselves and their relatives.

CUC, through legal counsel James Sirok, moved the court to dismiss the lawsuit.

DPW

From Page 1

see what are our concerns and they have to follow it. In fact, I was also there on Friday and had a tour to inspect it. For the record, there's no building occupancy certificate issued or building permit. Not even one."

He added that there are still a lot of construction activities at the site that need to be completed but IPI has already addressed and is finished with most of the concerns raised by DPW.

IPI plans to have a soft opening for its casino but there are concerns over the safety of its clients and other VIP players since construction of the hotel structure would continue. The opening has already been twice delayed, on Chinese New Year on Jan. 28, and in March.

Construction activities outside the casino-hotel appear to have been halted, but the remaining workers are said to be focusing on the finishing touches inside.

Ada said they are looking at first issuing a conditional permit. "That's what we're starting right now, [issuing] a conditional permit. We have yet to issue any permit and everyday our personnel meet with [IPI] representatives."

He said that some of the areas and other facilities are ready and are in compliance with the regulations set by BSCD.

"I toured with them [IPI representatives], [Commonwealth Casino Commission] members, and personnel from [the Department of Fire and Emergency Services]. There are still some concerns [from DPW], and even [CCC and DFEMS], that IPI needs to address."

He added that they should know if they could issue a conditional or partial occupancy permit anytime this week or next week.

ATISA

From Page 1

connect the islands of Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to the rest of the world, bringing with it a whole new world of connection speeds.

Expected to be up and running by August 2017, ATISA is expected to arrive on Tinian shores by next week and on Rota the following week before testing ATISA for eight additional weeks.

"One of the key things that we have watched in this process is to make sure that as we lay ATISA, we do it in a way that is not disruptive," said Kriegel, sharing that Tinian's cable was the most challenging.

Before having its own marine cable, Docomo Pacific used to piggyback on the marine cable of its main competitor, IT&E.

ATISA's scope covers improved mobile, television, internet, and phone connection services. Being able to finally offer 4G LTE data on island, bigger data allowances, and improved coverage across the islands, ATISA is touted as "bringing unimaginable speeds" of connectivity to Guam and the rest of the world.

The cable is being laid by the ship *Responder*, a multi-shore offshore construction and cable laying vessel that has an extensive global track record for both telecom and power cable installation. Docomo's contractor, NEC Corp., along with subcontractor Korea Telecom or KT, is handling the operation.

According to Kriegel, the total amount of data that Docomo Pacific uses and sends back and forth to the U.S. from the CNMI and Guam everyday is only about 40 gigabits.

"On the day that we [start up ATISA], we are going to have seven times the capacity than all of Docomo Pacific requires. The CNMI would have a lot of capacity starting from day one," he said.

"No more buffering," he added.

Kriegel mentioned that three wavelengths of 100 gigabits would be opened once ATISA is up and running. This means that, altogether, data of up to 100 gigabits may travel in three channels that could entertain 100 gigabits of data each, resulting in faster internet connection speeds as well as better mobile connections.

"This cable would give us the capacity to launch all of the services we have on Guam here in the CNMI as well. That means we would have LTE 4G networks on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; we would launch the Tivo cable television system we just launched in Guam here as well; and we would launch faster internet speeds," he said.

Kriegel told the media that Guam's 100 megabit internet offering would be available on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well.

Federal judge OKs 3 CUC projects worth $5M

The federal court approved yesterday three Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects worth $5.05 million.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter approved three task orders relating to CUC's power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base, Saipan, and the Rota Power Plant.

CUC and the CNMI government backed the U.S. government's request to approve the projects, with work to be completed primarily by Gilbane Federal, CUC's engineering and environmental management company.

Bradley R. O'Brien, senior attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, said the first task order relates to EEMC construction and management administration costs to perform projects to assist CUC and includes an increase to the funding ceiling.

O'Brien said the 2017 funding ceiling is increased by $258,000, with $204,000 expected to be borne by grant funding and $54,000 expected to be borne by the court registry.

Another task order relates to diesel tank repair and secondary containment repair at CUC's power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

The third task order relates to waste management at power plants 1 and 2 and CUC's Rota Power Plant. O'Brien said the project includes evaluating waste management systems for the three power plants, creating waste management plans, and the engineering and installation of physical improvements to these waste management systems. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

One case vs suspected drug dealer dropped

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed with prejudice yesterday one of the cases against a suspected drug dealer.

Camacho dismissed the case against 37-year-old Francisco R. Demapan after the Office of the Attorney General moved yesterday to drop the illegal possession of a controlled substance charge.

Dismissed with prejudice means the OAG could no longer re-file the case.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said the government believes it is in the interest of justice to drop the case.

Demapan's bench trial was supposed to start on Wednesday, May 17.

Demapan allegedly possessed crystal methamphetamine on Saipan last Jan. 10. No other details were provided in court documents.

Last March 13, police arrested Demapan after he allegedly yielded three small bags containing a crystalline substance during a traffic violator's stop in Chalan Kanoa. The quantity of the seized "ice" was not indicated in the report.

Police said they also recovered some drug paraphernalia inside Demapan's car.

Demapan has a pending illegal possession of a controlled substance case after he allegedly yielded "ice" and marijuana on Oct. 3, 2014.

In July 2010, Demapan was also arrested after police allegedly found in his pockets 2.10 in gross grams of "ice."

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force said Demapan is a known drug dealer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Suspected 'ice' supplier pleads guilty

A suspected supplier of methamphetamine or "ice" in Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, and Koblerville who was arrested last January pleaded guilty on Tuesday.

Jun Xia, 37, also known as Jun Tragic, pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio will sentence Xia on Nov. 14, 2017.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said that Xia unlawfully possessed crystal methamphetamine on Saipan on Dec. 8, 2016.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as Xia's lawyer.

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force first arrested Xia, a Chinese male, on Jan. 10, 2017, in Susupe for trafficking and illegal possession of "ice."

Xia, who is staying near Susupe Lake, is also allegedly a fence or receiver for stolen items. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fiscal Affairs wants list of agencies that get non-general fund revenues

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee has asked the Department of Finance and Office of Management and Budget to provide it with a list of agencies that receive non-general fund revenues every year.

Committee chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said these are funding sources—the CW fund, tobacco settlements, and Compact Impact reimbursements—that are earmarked for some agencies under the CNMI government.

Hofschneider, whose committee met with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and OMB special assistant and CIP administrator Virginia C. Villagomez on Tuesday, said they need the list to help them in appropriating the money for the fiscal year 2018 budget.

"There's a total of approximately $5.8 million, almost $5.9 million, from the CW fund, tobacco settlement fund, and Compact Impact grant reimbursements. So we need an accounting of that in order to guide us to move forward in the distribution of funds," said Hofschneider.

"As you may know, there are a lot of agencies out there that receive grants but there are also agencies that are in need of more funding and additional help. It would help us with the budget deliberations as we move forward and guide the committee on how to appropriate the amount."

The committee also asked for a detailed report on the non-general fund revenue sources. "We asked them to provide the committee with [list] of agencies that are receiving that. We need a report for proper disbursement."

Hofschneider said the report would also help them to equally distribute funds to agencies that need it most. "[The list] would help us for the budget deliberations as we are poised to adopt [House Concurrent Resolution 20-1] as indicated in the committee meeting."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is proposing a budget of $145,260,075 for fiscal year 2018.

Torres actually submitted a total of $236,770,472 in identified budgetary resources—an over $24-million increase from fiscal year 2017. All adjustments totaled $91,510,397 and deducted rom the identified budgetary resources. The FY 2018 budget also increased by more than $3 million from the previous year.

Forty-five million dollars, from the adjustments, is set aside for the debt service on the settlement agreement, up by $12 million from $33 million last fiscal year.

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BEA CABRERA

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter hands out awards to DCCA employees in commemoration of Public Service Week. Gov. Raplh DLG Torres and Lt. Goc. Victor B. Hocog were present to grace the occasion to show their support and gratitude to all employees of DCCA.

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, standing 10th from right, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, standing 11th from right, join Department of Public Works officials and service awardees in yesterday's ceremony at their Lower Base office.

BEA CABRERA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero is joined by Labor directors and employees in celebrating Public Service Recognition Week.

BEA CABRERA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman join the awardees at the Department of Commerce.

BEA CABRERA

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library employees were given recognition for their service. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog led the awarding.

NMI govt employees honored

Employees of the Department of Commerce and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library were recognized Tuesday as part of the ongoing Public Service Recognition Week, particularly those who continue to serve the people of the CNMI with utmost responsibility, loyalty and integrity.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said that employees are an organization's valuable asset "but too often 'thank you' goes unsaid. Now, we thank you for years of dedication, hard work, and awesome customer service."

Employees who were recognized have worked in the department for 10, 20, and 30 years.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres congratulated the awardees but gave special mention to the department's Enforcement section. "It is very important that when you guys go out there, the authority you have when you give a citation is one that [no one] can question," he said.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, on the other hand, called for unity and working together.

Erlinda C. Naputi, acting library director of JPKL, said the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is the state library of the CNMI, established in 1991. In 2016, it served a total of 69,963 patrons and circulated 42,959 library materials. Its Bookmobile served a total number of 25,573 patrons. The JPKL information technology center served 5,567 patrons.

"The library is a very important part of our education. It is more important nowadays because we are just so hooked on day to day activities, our apps, our phones that we forget to appreciate books…and the overall experience of going to the library," Torres said. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Legion of Mary to hold prayers

The Legion of Mary on Saipan will hold prayers in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 8am to 4pm (estimated time) at the Kristo Rai Parish. The 8am to 11am prayers will be at the Adoration Chapel, then will transfer inside the church to continue. Attendees may come and pray anytime within the schedule or they may choose to stay for the entire duration. May is traditionally dedicated to Mary. This year marks the 100th Year of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. ***(PR)***

Taste of the Marianas

The 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at Garapan Fishing Base from 6pm to 10pm. This Saturday will feature a "Kadun Pika" Cookoff co-sponsored by Twin's and Hannam supermarkets, with hundreds of dollars in cash, shopping gift certificates, and Taste tokens for the top 3 winners. This Saturday's entertainment includes: Man'amko fashion dhow, Hopwood Dance and Music Production, Blue Dragon, Pacific Flowers, Poksai Guma Chamorro, and Northern Star Band. Cookoff registration forms and rules are available at www.mymarianas.com, and the last day to register is May 12. ***(PR)***

HANMI meeting about CW1, visa waiver

There will be an urgent meeting for all general managers of hotels in the CNMI on Friday, May 12, at 1:30pm at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Sablan boardroom. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a joint government and private sector initiative to address the issues of the CW1 visas and the visa waiver program with the federal government. For more information, contact HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh at gm@marianaresort.com or 322-0770 or 989-7075. All hotels are welcome. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting Federation meeting set

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold a meeting on Saturday, May 13, starting at 1pm at the NMPASI conference room. All weightlifters and persons interested in supporting the sport of weightlifting in the CNMI are invited. We will be discussing upcoming competitions and fundraising. ***(PR)***

Training in Agat Bay

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay on May 9 from 4pm to 6pm. Aircraft will fly over Agat Bay, between Orote Point and Agat, about two miles from the shore at an altitude of 500 feet. The helicopters will conduct training with a small Navy boat. This notice is to inform residents in surrounding areas of this training activity. ***(PR)***

Tourism Month graphic art design contest

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Marianas Tourism Education Council are holding a Tourism Month 2017 Graphic Arts Design Contest for CNMI students in grades 6-12. Submissions must be an original digital design with the words "See My Marianas" featuring a site/location in the Marianas that the artist would encourage people to visit. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2017. Prizes begin at $150 cash plus $150 Taste of the Marianas tokens for first place. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2017. For contest guidelines, visit www.mymaianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Notice to Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries

This notice applies to the Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries who are having their monthly benefit checks directly deposited to their account at Bank of Guam. Effective June 1, 2017, Bank of Guam will no longer perform this service for you. In the interim, until PSTF can establish an automatic deposit clearing, PSTF will be mailing your benefit check to your mailing address on file. Contact the PSTF Administration Office at telephone number 322-9753 to confirm your current mailing address by June 1, 2017. The PSTF office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to noon and from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

Storyboard 16 to Launch May 12

MANGILAO, Guam—The 16th issue of the University of Guam's literary journal *Storyboard* features a collection of poetry, prose and visual art exploring the unique identity, culture and history of the people of Guam and the greater Micronesian region. The University of Guam Press and the UOG Division of English and Applied Linguistics will launch the journal tomorrow, May 12, from 6m to 7:30pm in the atrium of the UOG English and Communications building.

An editorial board of UOG faculty members reviewed 143 submissions and selected 25 pieces. Many of the writers and artists featured in *Storyboard 16* will be present at the launch to share and discuss their work. The current and past issues of *Storyboard* will also be available for sale. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Register now for Chamber's Corporate Challenge

The 17th annual Corporate Challenge will be held on May 28, 2017, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting Chamber member businesses to join in the competition to win the title of Corporate Challenge champions. The Chamber is now accepting company team registrations. Space is limited to the first registered teams. The deadline for registration will be on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 5pm. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later. The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Family reunion meetings today

The family of Leonardo Muna Camacho and Maria Padilla Campos (Naddu family tree) will be holding a family reunion on July 28 and 29, 2017. Meetings are currently being held every Thursday at the *kiosku*, across the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa. Gathering time starts at 5:30pm with the official beginning time at 6pm. ***(PR)***

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NMTI aims to expand course offerings

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute has plans to expand the number of courses it currently offers.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres said there is still a pressing need for trained individuals in specific fields like dentistry, office technology, among others.

Since the NMTI was established in 2008, the institute has primarily offered technical courses like auto mechanics, construction crafts, hospitality, culinary, and many more courses that deal with electromechanics.

McPhetres said she noticed that educational institutions in the Commonwealth do not offer courses for specialized fields. She then found out that the Guam Community College offered these kinds of courses.

McPhetres said she proposed a partnership with GCC to possibly expand certain courses to the Commonwealth and to offer these courses at NMTI. The partnership would allow students to gain college credit from GCC, but they would be taking their classes here in the Commonwealth at NMTI.

Since GCC is accredited, federal Pell grants, local scholarships, and even federal scholarships are accessible for interested participants and could cover the cost of the course, McPhetres said.

The goal is to bring GCC programs to the Commonwealth via NMTI.

"We are trying to make available trainings that are not available," McPhetres said of her goal for this partnership.

According to McPhetres, instructors here who are qualified will teach the courses in the Commonwealth. Qualified instructors will be certified at GCC in Guam to be able to teach here in the Commonwealth.

As of now, NMTI is currently in negotiations with GCC for the issuance of a memorandum of agreement and the process it would take for all of this to pull through. McPhetres hopes to finalize negotiations within the next three months.

McPhetres said the Commonwealth and NMTI is ready for the final decision and is ready to carry out all the proposals. The institution is just waiting for the approval of GCC.

McPhetres is certain that although the approval process is slow and long because of the uncertainty of something new, it will still certainly happen.

Bible in four Pacific languages available

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colorado —The Gerard Aflague Collection recently released four children's bible titles including: *My First Chamorro Children's Bible Stories*, *My First Hawaiian Children's Bible Stories, My First Samoan Children's Bible Stories*, and *My First Tongan Children's Bible Storie.*

Gerard Aflague, the book's designer, was passionate to offer a children's story bible that would be translated into a variety of Micronesian and Polynesian languages to support language learning by children with the support of their parents.

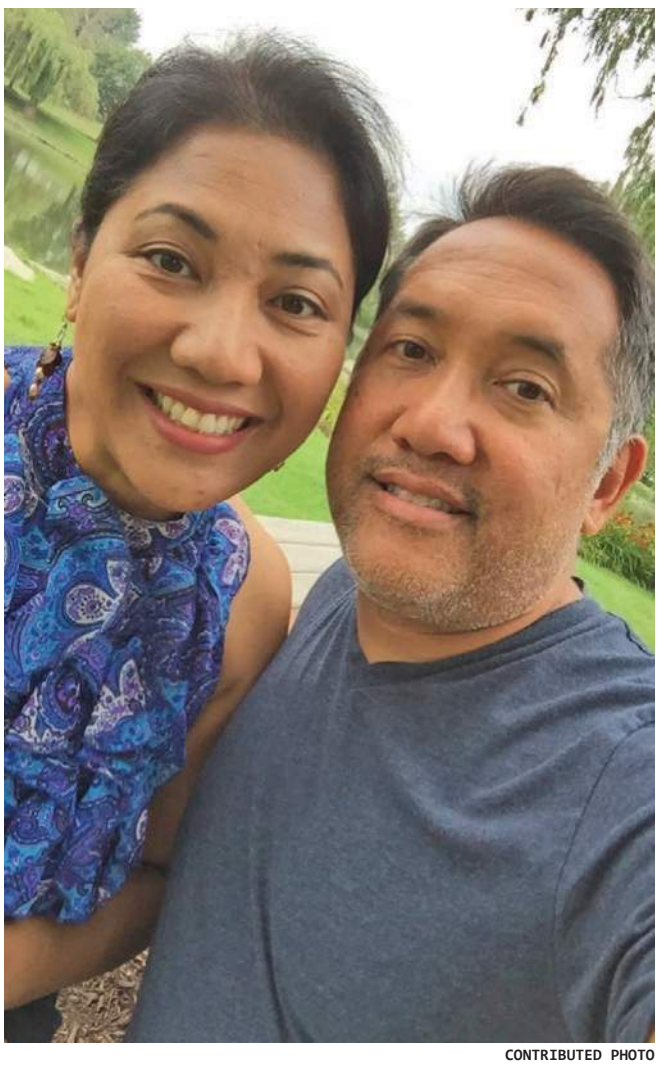
"At a time when social media offers avenues to share new and exciting cultural learning opportunities, the launch of these books provides a unique means to share cultures across the Pacific," Gerard Aflague said.

Mary Aflague, editor of the books, said that its content includes visual illustrations that are brightly colored and vivid, retelling 16 of the more recognizable bible stories including the Creation Story, Noah's ark, Baby Moses, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Jesus Heals the Blind Man, Jesus' Crucifixion, Jesus' Resurrection, and Jesus' Second Coming.

The release of these books took much commitment, effort, and coordination among many involved across the world. Gerard and Mary Aflague worked as book designer and editor from both Guam and Colorado; the illustrator worked from India, and many translators from Guam and Polynesia assisted across the miles.

Gerard Aflague's passion to author, illustrate, and self-publish children's books offered him the opportunity to give back to his people, and to the larger Pacific Islander communities. These children's bibles are a gift from his family to the larger islander communities across the Pacific.

These new children's bibles are available online for purchase on Amazon.com, Ebay.com, and the GerardAflague-Collection.com. In Guam, the Chamorro-English children's story bible will be made available at Bestseller Bookstores; and at Faith Bookstore and Bonita Baby Boutique in Hagatna.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gerard and Mary Aflague worked as book designer and editor from both Guam and Colorado

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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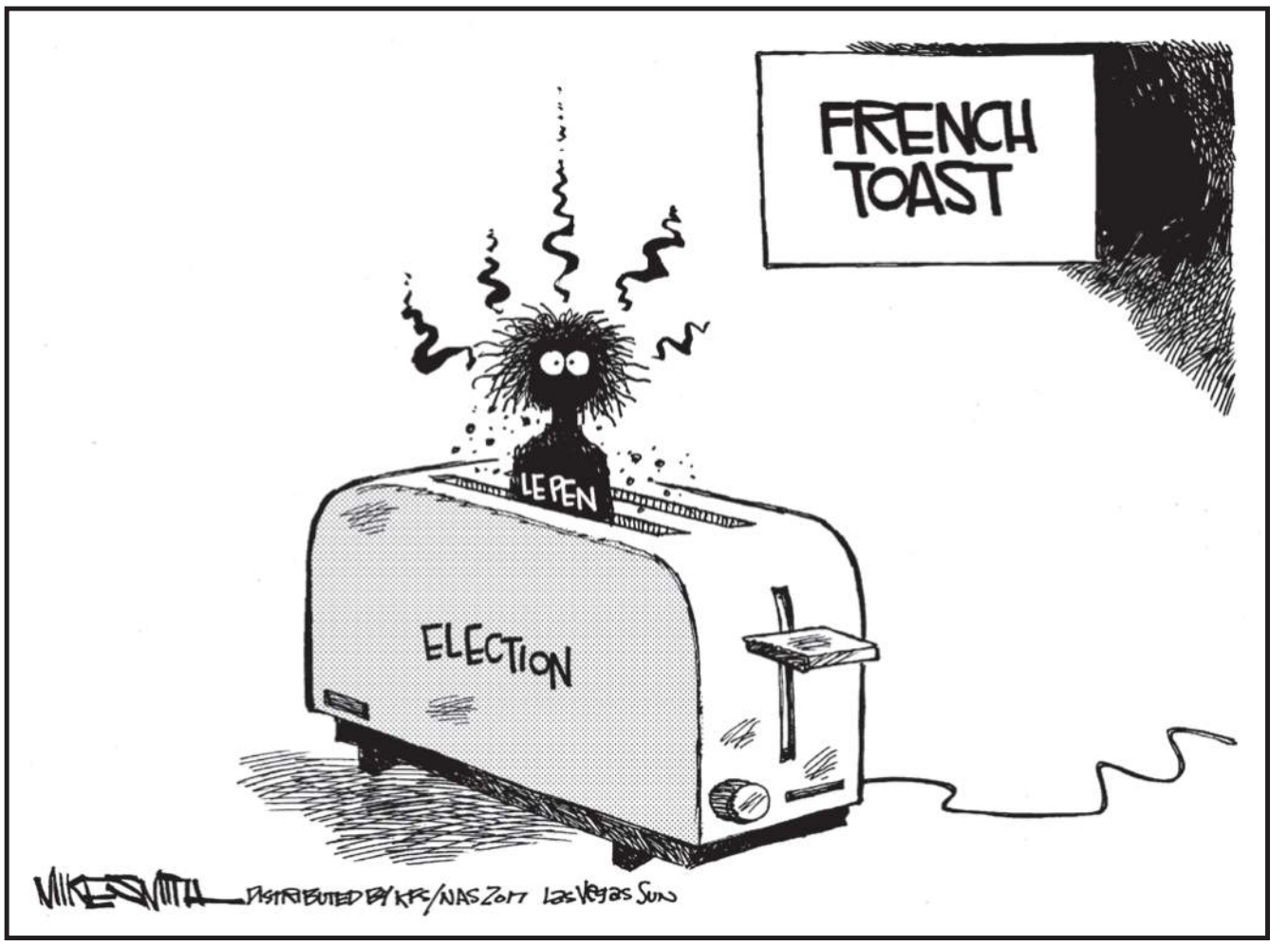
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

How to fight fake news

By MATTHEW A. BAUM and DAVID LAZER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

We know a lot about fake news. Academics have been studying it—and how to combat it—for decades. In 1925, Harper's Magazine published "Fake News and the Public," calling its spread via new communication technologies "a source of unprecedented danger."

That danger has only increased, of course. Some of the most shared "news stories" from the 2016 U.S. election—such as Hillary Clinton selling weapons to Islamic State or the pope endorsing Donald Trump for president—were simply made up.

Unfortunately—as a conference we recently convened at Harvard revealed—the solutions Google, Facebook and other tech giants and media companies are pursuing aren't in many instances the ones that social scientists and computer scientists are convinced will work.

We know, for example, that the more you're exposed to things that aren't true, the more likely you are to eventually accept them. As recent studies led by psychologist Gordon Pennycook, political scientist Adam Berinsky and others have shown, over time people tend to forget where or how they found out about a news story. When they encounter it again, it is familiar from the prior exposure, and so they are more likely to accept it as true. It doesn't matter if from the start it was labeled as fake news or unreliable—repetition is what counts.

Reducing acceptance of fake news thus means making it less familiar. Editors, producers, distributors and aggregators need to stop repeating these stories, especially in their headlines. A fact-check story about "birtherism," for example, should lead by debunking the myth, not restating it.

This flies in the face of a lot of traditional journalistic practice. The online Washington Post regularly features "Fact Checker" headlines consisting of claims to be evaluated, with a "Pinocchio Test" appearing at the end of the accompanying story. The problem is that readers are more likely to notice and remember the claim than the conclusion.

Another thing we know is that shocking claims stick in your memory. A long-standing body of research shows that people are more likely to attend to and later recall a sensational or negative headline, even if a fact checker flags it as suspect. Fake news stories nearly always feature alarming claims designed to grab the attention of web surfers. Fact checkers can't compete—especially if their findings are writ small.

To persuade people that fake news is fake, the messenger is as important as the message. When it comes to correcting falsehoods, a fellow partisan is often more persuasive than a neutral third party. For instance, Trump is arguably the individual most closely associated with birtherism. But in September 2016, Trump announced that Obama was a native-born American, "period." Polling a few days later showed an 18-percentage point drop among registered Republicans in acceptance of the birther myth. Countless debunking stories by fact checkers had far less impact.

See FAKE NEWS on Next Page

Change doesn't mean there's improvement

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a columnist for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

One of the prime arguments for U.S. House passage of the Trump-Ryan health care bill sounds depressingly familiar. And that should provide a warning for all but the most rigidly partisan.

It may not be perfect legislation, that argument goes, but we promised change, and change is better than more of the same. That's similar to last November's argument to vote for Donald Trump—despite misgivings about his character and qualifications—because he will change Washington and couldn't be worse than Hillary Clinton.

By now, the likely damage from that 2016 illogic is becoming increasingly evident. So is the potential impact of this thoroughly bad legislation, which is why last week's House action may threaten many Republican members of Congress, even if the Senate improves it.

Six months after Trump's election, rather than cleaning the Washington "swamp," he has staffed the government with millionaires, Washington lobbyists and conservative ideologues. They have set in motion steps that portend incalculable damage to the environment, voting rights and minorities without fulfillment of his extravagant promises of reopened steel mills and coal mines, and better and cheaper health benefits.

In areas like the environment and immigration, the administration is quite open with what it's doing. In others, it's been disingenuous, like touting White House meetings to discuss the opioid crisis while proposing to eliminate most funds for the agency that is fighting it.

Trump's Rose Garden "victory speech" was "kind of like" President George W. Bush prematurely hailing the fall of Baghdad as "Mission Accomplished," Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C, said on MSNBC. Though only the House has acted, Trump's assurance of reduced health care costs and insurance deductibles might convince a casual viewer those problems were solved.

To be fair, the Affordable Care Act has issues that have to be addressed, including the need for expanded Medicaid coverage in states like Texas that rejected it. But much of the current situation, in which insurance companies are withdrawing their coverage, stems from the uncertainty spurred by seven years of GOP efforts to undercut the law and Trump's failure to develop an acceptable replacement.

Instead, House Republicans passed a measure that would cost millions of lower-income Trump voters their health care coverage and transfer $800 billion from Medicaid recipients to wealthy taxpayers.

Some members justified their votes on their confidence the Senate will improve it.

But regardless of any Senate changes, any ultimate compromise with the House may well lack some of the protections the Affordable Care Act gave many Americans who are older and poorer or have pre-existing conditions. That's a likely result if Republicans meet their goal of repealing and replacing Obamacare.

Note these key House provisions:

■ The bill curbs the Medicaid expansion, which enabled 12 million more Americans to receive health insurance, dumping future costs on states that in many cases won't be willing or able to afford them.

■ It replaces the federal subsidies that helped 9 million lower-income Americans pay for health coverage with tax credits that will provide less financial support, especially for older, sicker people.

■ It provides a $765 billion tax cut for wealthier Americans by eliminating tax increases on investment income and higher Medicare taxes that paid for the ACA.

■ It punches a hole in the required coverage of certain specific medical conditions like maternity and mental health benefits and the protection against higher costs for those with pre-existing conditions. States could seek waivers of those requirements from the Department of Health and Human Services, headed by bitter ACA foe Tom Price.

Most political analysts agreed that a backlash from the vote could threaten Republican control of the House next year. In an initial test next month, the June 20 runoff election for Price's old seat in Georgia's 6th District in the Atlanta suburbs will almost certainly be read as a harbinger of the 2018 midterms.

Another upcoming special election, the May 25 test in Montana, illustrated the tightrope some GOP candidates may try to walk. The New York Times said Republican nominee Greg Gianforte told potential Washington fundraisers he was "thankful" for the House action, but an aide said that only meant he appreciated the process was under way, not that he would necessarily have voted for that bill.

The argument for change over the status quo is always a powerful one in American politics. It was in November. But on health reform, the changes taking place in Washington provide a powerful counter-argument in favor of caution.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bundled services and billing

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Communications Commission's guidance on how consumers can best protect themselves from issues arising from bundled services and billing.

Combining several communications services—such as local and long distance telephone service, internet or broadband, TV and cable service, and wireless telephone service or Voice over Internet Protocol—into one package is commonly known as "bundling." Choosing to bundle, with a single bill for multiple services, may save you money. However, it can also lead to confusion over billing.

For all billing or service issues, you should first try to resolve the issue directly with your service provider.

Who should I contact about questionable charges on my phone bill?

The FCC's Truth-in-Billing rules require telephone companies to provide clear, non-misleading, plain language in describing services for which you are being billed. The company sending you the bill must identify the service provider associated with each charge. Telephone companies must also display, on each bill, one or more toll-free numbers that you can call to ask about or dispute any charge on the bill.

If you are unable to resolve disputed charges with the billing company or your service provider, contact:

■ The FCC for charges related to telephone services between states/territories or internationally.

■ The Office of the Attorney General for telephone services within your state/territory.

■ The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") for non-telephone services on your telephone bill.

What should I do if I have an issue with basic cable TV service rates or cable TV service quality?

Contact your local franchising authority. Contact information can be found on your cable service bill or in your local telephone directory. Other resources include:

■ The Office of the Attorney General.

Filing a complaint

If you feel your bill is inaccurate and you are unable to resolve it with your service provider, you have multiple options for filing a complaint with the FCC:

■ File a complaint online at https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

■ By phone: 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322); TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) ; ASL: 1-844-432-2275.

■ By mail (please include your name, address, contact information, and as much detail about your complaint as possible):

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program shares FTC and/or FCC publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.

FAKE NEWS

From Page 10

The internet platforms have perhaps the most important role in the fight against fake news. They need to move suspect news stories farther down the lists of items returned through search engines or social media feeds. The key to evaluating credibility, and story placement, is to focus not on individual items but on the cumulative stream of content from a given website. Evaluating individual stories is simply too slow to reliably stem their spread.

Google recently announced some promising steps in this direction. It was responding to criticism that its search algorithm had elevated to front-page status some stories featuring Holocaust denial and false information about the 2016 election. But more remains to be done. Holocaust denial is, after all, low-hanging fruit, relatively easily flagged. Yet even here Google's initial efforts produced at best mixed results, initially shifting a denial site downward, then ceasing to work reliably before ultimately eliminating the site from search results.

The platforms must also wrestle more seriously with how to evade manipulation. Recent research led by computer scientist Filippo Menczer highlights the synchronized push of fake news by millions of bots on social media and has developed new ways of detecting them. In a white paper released last month, Facebook claims that its top priority is making sure accounts are owned by real people. Yet its visible efforts to date to purge fake accounts—most notably 30,000 in France ahead of that nation's presidential election—seem small relative to the scale of the problem. By its own estimates, Facebook may have as many 138 million duplicate or false accounts.

Finally, the public must hold Facebook, Google and other platforms to account. It is difficult to assess how real or effective their anti-fake news efforts are because they control the data necessary for such evaluations. Independent researchers must have access to the data in a way that protects user privacy but helps us figure out what is and isn't working in the fight against misinformation.

For all the talk about fake news, the truth is that we know a lot about why people read, believe and share things that aren't true. Now we just need the big technology platforms and media companies to take the truth to heart.

Matthew A. Baum is the Marvin Kalb professor of global communication and professor of public policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. David Lazer is a distinguished professor in political science and computer and information science at Northeastern University and visiting scholar at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GPSM was fairly awarded engine contract

General Pacific Services Marianas holds the position that it was fairly and legally selected by the CUC Engine Selection Committee to provide a new engine to replace Engine 8 at Power Plant 1. The Selection Committee, headed by deputy general manager William Gilmore, arrived at its decision after reviewing a total of four proposals and proper considerations of the emergency nature of having adequate power generation for the ratepayers of the CNMI. The backpedaling by Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Sirok is unfortunate, given that GPSM and its team members, including Fairbanks Morse, answered all request for additional information and clarifications of its proposals. Inaccurate information was given to members of the Senate and the House committees that did not state all the facts.

As the sole 100 percent owner of GPSM, I formed the company in March 2016 to participate in construction opportunities in the CNMI, including projects being undertaken by Alter City Group, Paraisu Corp., Rota Pacific Development, and Saipan Pacific Development. To date GPSM has completed over $2 million of billable work in 2016. GPSM currently has over $5 million in replacement value equipment in the Mariana Islands. Clearly, GPSM has made a significant investment in the CNMI and is eager to improve the quality of life of the people of the Marianas Islands.

As a woman and a small business owner, I was deeply offended by the discriminatory and sexist comment against me by Rep. Ed Propst, insinuating that I am a woman with no experience. What does my gender have to do with this? As a native American Lumbee Indian woman, I own multiple businesses in Guam and the CNMI. Most notably, I am the sole owner of Pacific Waste Systems, a commercial trash hauling company in Guam. I have owned PWS for over 14 years, which generates over $8 million in revenue. GPSM is a subsidiary business of General Pacific Services, LLC, incorporated in Guam since 1996. As a general contractor, GPS has been involved with numerous contract procurements both with the local and federal government. Our families, including my husband and his father, have been successfully involved in numerous capital improvement projects throughout Micronesia, including several projects in the CNMI.

In forming GPSM, a registered notary was required to authenticate the signatures of myself and Ms. Smith. This was properly and legally done in March 2016 by Mrs. Roberto. She was only performing a government function as a notary public and did so almost a year before any RFP or RFQ was considered or issued. Accusations of wrongdoing against her are totally unfounded. With regards to Philip Roberto, he is neither an employee nor owner of GPSM. He even offered to resign as vice president to avoid any conflicts, but legal counsel indicated that it was not necessary as it is virtually unavoidable to not be related to people in the CMNI. He has since been removed as an officer of GPSM.

The illegitimate concerns over Fairbanks Morse were totally unnecessary and they were raised just to try and disqualify GPSM. Fairbanks Morse is the authorized distributor of MANN Engines for the U.S. territories and was supplying the engine as part of the "team" of industry professionals that would "supply and install" the engine on a turnkey basis for CUC. The continued use of the word "partnership" by Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Sirok are totally misleading. It was made very clear to the CUC Selection Committee that GPSM was the "sole responsible party for the engine" and Fairbanks Morse has nothing to do with it other than providing the engine at the price negotiated by GPSM. This was never clarified to the Legislature and only clouded the issue and creates more unnecessary controversy.

Furthermore, it should be noted that most, if not all, of the existing engines in Power Plant 1 are MANN engines. It makes perfect sense to consider purchasing the same type of engine. The CUC power generation personnel are already familiar with this engine type and should know that it would be easier for them to perform the necessary maintenance and repairs in the future. Assertions that Fairbanks Morse engine was more expensive than the Wartsila engine are inaccurate. GPSM factored in all costs, including taxes, in its proposal. The Wartsila proposal did not factor taxes into its proposal, which explains the disparity in pricing.

An emergency still exists with the CNMI's power generation system; this was certainly exposed during the most recent typhoon and persists today. GPSM simply responded to a request by the CUC and was deemed qualified to deliver an engine in the required timeframe in order to avert any further damage to a fragile power system. Weeks have now passed since this RFQ closed, the emergency situation persists and there is no resolution in sight. Was GPSM set up to fail, given there were no complaints until after we were awarded the contract? Is this bid being set up for another business entity? Are there other business interests being served by attempting to cancel this RFQ? GPSM is looking forward to a fair and equitable resolution that we believe will result in the same outcome of GPSM being awarded the contract.

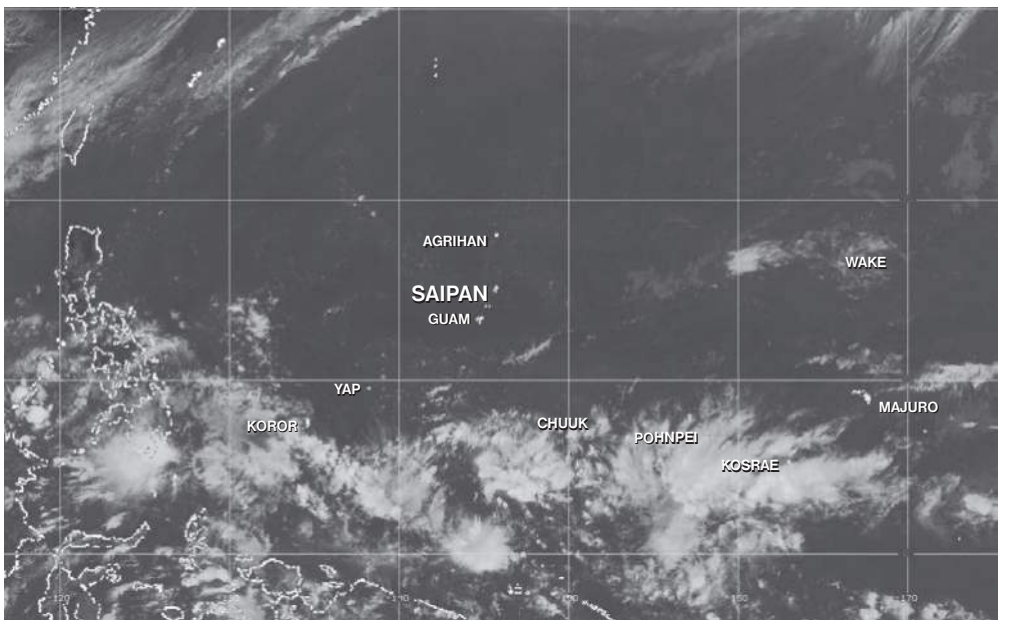
Amellia Toelkes
Owner, General Pacific Services Marianas

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy skies.	Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.	Partly to mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms.	Scattered thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible.
▲86° ▼78°	▲84° ▼79°	▲86° ▼78°	▲85° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:40 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows very little cloudiness across the region this morning. Latest PGUA WSR-88D data shows only a few light showers, mainly east and south of Guam. Models show decreasing mid-level moisture through the day. Therefore, chose to maintain inherited forecast for a slight chance of showers and mostly sunny skies through this afternoon. isolated showers will continue from this evening through the beginning of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	88 | 79 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	87 | 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	87 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	86 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	66 | 61 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	88 | 73 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	83 | 76 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	82 | 72 °F
London	Rain	65 | 53 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	70 | 56 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	90 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	65 | 46 °F
Miami	Sunny	88 | 72 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	65 | 48 °F
Osaka	Sunny	75 | 63 °F
Paris	Rain	68 | 53 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	82 | 59 °F
Rome	Mostly cloudy	80 | 63 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	75 | 52 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	60 | 51 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	76 | 57 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	80 | 61 °F
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	70 | 53 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:06 AM	LOW TIDE	0.89
7:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
2:25 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.06
8:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:01 AM	6:55 PM
Friday	-	6:43 AM	7:44 PM
Saturday	-	7:26 AM	8:33 PM
Sunday	-	8:12 AM	9:21 PM
Monday	-	8:59 AM	10:09 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

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TRUCKLOAD SALE

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM

Mother's Day at the Truckload Store (Saturday 05.13.2017) Special Treats for Moms!

$379.95 YZ FURNITURE-SOFA & LOVESEAT COMBO

TCL 40" SMART TV $379.95

KAISER LEATHER 2 SEAT SOFA $599.95

DEAL OF THE WEEK!

$169.95 3PC TAVERN SET

GRACIOUS LIVING LOW BACK PLASTIC CHAIRS

$9.95 SAVE $2.00

$299.95 LINON DAHLIA 5PC HIGH DINING SET

$119.95 ESSENTIAL HOME 2 DOOR CABINET

Hey Dads, don't forget to buy the woman in your life something special to say THANK YOU for being an amazing Mom!

$129.95 ESSENTIAL HOME METAL WOOD COCKTAIL TABLE

MOLLIS JACQUARD 6.2'X9.6' SUPER SOFT AREA RUG $45.95

LEVEL LOOP AREA RUG $24.95

$399.95 AKOUSTIQ KARAOKE SYSTEM 12000 WATTS

PAULA DEEN 12PC RIVER BEND COOKWARE SET $129.95

R&B-CROSLEY 26CF REFRIGERATOR $1,195.95

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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MOTHER'S DAY AT THE TRUCKLOAD STORE (SATURDAY 05.13.2017) SPECIAL TREATS FOR MOMS!

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DAHDOUL 3PC SHAGGY DADDY BATH SET
$10.95

$12.95
ESSENTIAL HOME WELCOME RUBBER COIR DOORMAT

MEMORY FOAM PILLOW
$7.95

TGF JUMBO PILLOW
$6.95

$25.95
DAHDOUL-QUEEN 5 DIAMOND 2 PLY

WATER JUG 4PC BEVERAGE SET
$24.95

$110.95
BLACK & DECKER 6 SLICE CONVECTION OVEN

$16.95
SUNBEAM 2 SLICE TOASTER

$69.95
PROCTOR SILEX .7 CU. FT. MICROWAVE

$69.95
PRESTO DUAL BASKET DEEP FRYER

$44.95
CROCK POT 6QT COOK & CARRY SLOW COOKER

CURTIS DVD PLAYER
$29.95

$24.95

SUNBEAM STEAM MASTER IRON

BROTHER COMPUTERIZED SC600A SEWING MACHINE
$199.95

$49.95
GIBSON-KIESLING 16PC DW SET, RED/BLACK STONEWARE

$45.95
GIBSON DURALIVING 12PC DINNERWARE SET

BRENTWOOD 6QT ELECTRIC PRESSURE COOKER
$79.95

FARBERWARE 12PC. CERAMIC BLUE COOKWARE SET
$109.95

$99.95
BETTER CHEF 100 CUP STAINLESS STEEL COFFEE URN

$99.95
OSTER VERSA 1100W BLENDER WITH PROCESSOR

$119.95
SONY 120 WATT IPOD/IPHONE SYSTEM REFURBISHED

DOREL 5 SHELF BOOKCASE
$44.95

$44.95
STOR 4 TIER WIRE SHELVING

$34.95
GRACIOUS LIVING 36INCH ROUND PLASTIC TABLE

$19.95
GRACIOUS LIVING ADIRONDACK CHAIR

$99.95
ESSENTIAL HOME MILLER BARSTOOL

$59.95
Z SHADE 8X8 INSTANT SPORT CANOPY

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

'Taste' returns with the 'Kadun Pika' Cookoff

The 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden resumes on Saturday, May 13, at the Garapan Fishing Base, pitting chefs against each other in the "Kadun Pika" Cookoff.

Registration is still open for any adult ready to vie for bragging rights to the best "Kadun Pika" (spicy chicken) on Saipan.

The fun starts at 5:30pm, with judging at 7pm. Registration is free, but competitors must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, and other equipment. Stewing chicken will be provided by sponsors Twins and Hannam supermarkets. The deadline to register is Friday, May 12, at 5pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose.

"We want to make this spicier this year with a couple of new contests, the 'Kadun Pika' Cookoff this week and the BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff next week," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "And to make it more interesting, only our famous Marianas 'donni sali' will be allowed as the hot pepper in the recipe."

In this Saturday's contest, first place will win $250 cash, a $125 shopping spree from Twins and Hannam, and $50 in Taste tokens. Second place will get $150 cash, a $75 shopping spree from Twins and Hannam, and $50 Taste tokens. For third place, it is $50 cash, a $50 shopping spree from Twins and Hannam, and $50 Taste tokens.

On the main stage, the night's entertainment will include the *man'amko* fashion show at 6pm, HDMP at 6:30pm, Blue Dragon at 7pm, Pacific Flowers at 7:30pm, Poksai Guma Chamorro at 8:15pm, and Northern Star Band at 9pm.

Last week, the Taste challenged competitors to see who could finish five footlong hotdogs in 10 minutes…or at least who could eat the most. Ten brave men took the challenge of the Docomo Pacific Hotdog Eating Contest, with Ray Emul walking away with over $200 in prizes for first place, Michael Harris winning $30 in Taste tokens for second place, and Moses Kkuekis winning $20 in Taste tokens for third place.

"We really thank Docomo Pacific for joinng us as a major sponsor this year and for putting on a great contest," said Community Projects specialist and Taste lead coordinator Ray Villagomez. "The crowd loved it!"

Thirteen food and three beverage vendors are participating in the MVA's annual signature event, which features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday in May, closing at 11pm on the final night.

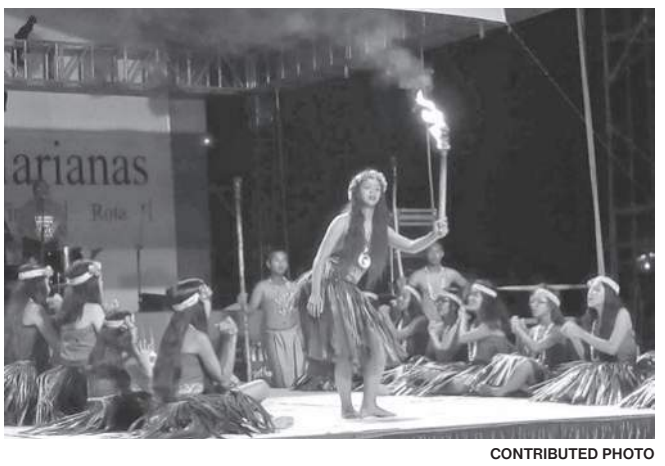
Participating food vendors are Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Herman's Bakery, D'Elegance Cafe, Furusato Restaurant, Thai House, Tropical Chills, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Sweet Escapes, Matty's BBQ, and Tony Roma's/ Capricciosa.

Residents are also encouraged to show their support for Tourism Month by observing "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit" Islandwear Fridays and participating in Tourism Trivia on KCNM-KZMI, KKMP, KWAW, and Power 99. CNMI students in grades 6-12 can win cash and Taste tokens in the "See My Marianas" graphic art design contest, which ends on May 12.

For registration forms and rules for the "Kadun Pika" and BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoffs, visit www.mymarianas.comor contact Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarianas or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Furasato Restaurant serves dinner at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 6, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chamorro dance group Simiyan Manaina-ta performs at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 6, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

D'Elegance Restaurant is one of 13 food vendors featured at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden in Garapan. The Taste of the Marianas will continue every Saturday throughout May Tourism Month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Burritos and more are on the menu of Mariana Resort & Spa at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 6, 2017. The Taste of the Marianas will continue every Saturday throughout May Tourism Month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tropical Chill's provide cool treats on a warm evening at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 6, 2017. The festival is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local arts and crafts by Tokie Mojica and other artists are available at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 6, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

K-Pop puts a modern twist on a traditional Korean dance at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 6, 2017. The Taste of the Marianas will continue every Saturday throughout May Tourism Month.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq)*, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the **Personnel Committee** will meet on **Monday, May 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.**

The **Operations Committee** will also meet on the **same day, immediately follows after** the Personnel Committee meeting. The committee meetings will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments**
III. Executive Session***
   (Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters)
IV. Adjournment

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments**
III. Executive Session***
   (Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Operations Matters)
IV. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
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Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on T**uesday, May 16, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Corresponcense
II. Public Comments**
III. Management Reports
   A. Executive Director
      1. Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
      2. Update on EPA Grant Projects
   B. Deputy Executive Director
   C. Chief Financial Officer
   D. Legal Counsel
IV. Executive Session***
   A. Consultation with Legal Counsel on legal matters relating to Contracts, Personnel and Operations
V. Board Reports/Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/ New Business
   A. Personnel Committee
   B. Operation Committee
VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Business

Sale of Caribbean property of Trump revives ethics concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—For sale: Luxury waterfront escape. Comes with two villas and five acres of paradise. And perhaps a bit of goodwill from the president of the United States?

President Donald Trump's corporate trust is selling a multimillion-dollar Caribbean resort, presenting an enticing new way for a wealthy interest to get the president's attention and creating a fresh ethical dilemma for a first family dogged by the repeated collision of its corporate ties and public service.

Just in the past few days, the Kushner Companies, the real estate company run by Trump's in-laws, apologized for advertising its connections to the White House during a pitch to Chinese investors. Ivanka Trump and other government employees are hawking her new book on social media—despite her assertion that she won't promote it.

Last weekend was the president's 14th at a Trump-branded property, riling ethics experts who say the visits amount to in-kind advertising.

It's all part of a push and pull that has only intensified as the Trump administration wades deeper into policymaking. Although the family appears to be following the letter of the law to avoid conflicts of interest, Trump, his daughter and son-in-law Jared Kushner—the latter two White House advisers—haven't always been able to keep their former business interests from creeping in.

In an effort to distance himself from his real estate empire, Trump put his properties and other business entities in a trust overseen by one of his adult sons and a senior Trump Organization executive. He has said he won't seek information about the business, but he can seize back control of the trust at any time.

The sale of the Caribbean resort would be the first unloading of a major asset owned by the trust since Trump took office.

Known as Le Chateau des Palmiers, the Trump complex is at the edge of the turquoise waters of Plum Bay on the western tip of French St. Martin and features a five-bedroom ocean villa and four-bedroom garden villa, according to the listing on Sotheby's International Realty.

Trump, who purchased it four years ago, reported the residential rental property as being worth between $25 million and $50 million and generating between $100,000 and $1 million in rental income on his personal financial disclosure forms last May.

Would a buyer pay a premium to help the president sell it in hopes of being viewed favorably by his administration? The White House would not comment on whether the president was aware of the listing and referred questions to the Trump Organization. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

Previous presidents have put their assets in a blind trust managed by a third party, in an attempt to avoid the perception that their decisions might be influenced by their personal finances.

Michael Beschloss, a presidential historian, said he could recall one other time a sitting president tried to sell a property: Richard Nixon's Fifth Avenue apartment in Manhattan, a deal that closed shortly after he took office.

The Office of Government Ethics strongly urged Trump and his relatives working in the White House to divest as much as possible before he took office in late January, but could not make them do so.

"OGE's ability to influence how White House appointees address conflicts of interest is rather limited," the office's director Walter Shaub said. "OGE is not in a position to compel a White House appointee to adopt a particular strategy, such as divestiture."

States sue over Trump decision to restart coal lease program

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Four U.S. states filed a lawsuit Tuesday over President Donald Trump's decision to restart the sale of coal leases on federal lands, saying the Obama-era block of the leasing program was reversed without studying what's best for the environment and for taxpayers.

The attorneys general of California, New Mexico, New York and Washington, all Democrats, said bringing back the federal coal lease program without an environmental review risks worsening the effects of climate change on those states while shortchanging them for the coal taken from public lands.

"Climate change has to be considered when we are talking about compensating states and New Mexico citizens for their resources," said Cholla Khoury, New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas' director of consumer and environmental protection.

The U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management administers 306 coal leases in 10 states, producing more than 4 billion tons of coal over the past decade. Most of that coal—85 percent—comes from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana.

Production and combustion of coal from federal lands accounted for about 11 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2014.

The Obama administration blocked the sale of new leases in 2016 to conduct an environmental study and a review of the royalties that mining companies pay the U.S. government for coal that's extracted. Federal officials and members of Congress said the current royalty rates were shortchanging taxpayers.

In January, Interior officials said they were considering raising those royalty rates to offset the effects of climate change from burning the coal.

In March, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to amend or withdraw the coal leasing program moratorium.

The next day, Zinke did so, saying the Obama administration's environmental review would cost "many millions of dollars" and that improvements to the program can be made without a full-scale environmental review.

The lawsuit by the four attorneys general, which was filed in Great Falls, Montana, says the reversal was made "with no justification other than an objection to the time and cost of complying with the law."

Lifting the moratorium without properly considering the environmental effects or ensuring that the program is providing fair market value for the publicly owned coal violates federal laws, they allege.

"They didn't follow the law," Khoury said. "You can't make piecemeal changes without doing this assessment to fully understand all parts of this program."

Interior Department officials did not return telephone and email messages seeking comment.

Nation

IN MIDST OF RUSSIA PROBE

Trump ax falls on FBI's Comey

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey Tuesday, dramatically ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an FBI investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's meddling in the election that sent him to the White House.

AP

In this Wednesday, May 3, 2017, photo, then-FBI Director James Comey pauses as he testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

In a letter to Comey, Trump said the firing was necessary to restore "public trust and confidence" in the FBI. Comey has come under intense scrutiny in recent months for his public comments on an investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's email practices, including a pair of letters he sent to Congress on the matter in the closing days of last year's campaign.

Trump made no mention of Comey's role in the Clinton investigation, which she has blamed in part for the election result. But in announcing the firing, the White House circulated a scathing memo, written by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, criticizing Comey's handling of the Clinton probe, including the director's decision to hold a news conference announcing its findings and releasing "derogatory information" about Clinton.

Since Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from the bureau's Trump-Russia probe, Rosenstein has been in charge.

This is only the second firing of an FBI director in history. President Bill Clinton dismissed William Sessions amid allegations of ethical lapses in 1993.

Comey was speaking to agents at the FBI's field office in Los Angeles when the news of his firing flashed on TV screens, according to a law enforcement official who was there. Comey initially chuckled, then finished his speech, said the official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

Comey later left on a plane to return to Washington.

Democrats slammed Trump's action, comparing it to President Richard Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre" decision to fire the independent special prosecutor overseeing the Watergate investigation in 1973, which prompted the resignations of the Justice Department's top two officials.

The Democrats expressed deep skepticism about the stated reasons for Tuesday's firing, raising the prospect of a White House effort to stymie the investigations by the FBI and congressional panels.

Amtrak engineer won't be charged in deadly crash

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The speeding Amtrak engineer involved in a derailment that killed eight people and injured about 200 others won't face criminal charges, the city district attorney's office said Tuesday.

Prosecutors said they can't prove engineer Brandon Bostian acted with "conscious disregard" when he accelerated the train to 106 mph on a 50 mph curve in Philadelphia.

Federal investigators concluded that Bostian lost track of his location, or "situational awareness," before the May 12, 2015, crash after learning that a nearby commuter train had been struck with a rock. They found no evidence he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol or distracted by a cellphone.

Lawyers Thomas R. Kline and Robert Mongeluzzi, who represent more than 30 victims and their families, described their clients as bitterly disappointed and said many remain in constant pain two years later.

"There is a longing for accountability when you are disabled and in excruciating pain every day," Mongeluzzi said. "The person who was the primary and sole cause of this escaped punishment and you paid the price."

Kline believes that Bostian, now 34 and still on unpaid administrative leave with Amtrak, should at least face reckless endangerment charges, if not the more serious charges that require a finding of intent.

"If he is allowed to escape responsibility, then it is an invitation for every culpable person who operates a vehicle—whether it be a train or a car or a bus or a boat—to say, 'I forgot where I was,'" Kline said.

But the District Attorney's Office concluded there was not enough evidence to prove that he consciously disregarded any risks to his passengers. The train had left Philadelphia minutes before, heading toward New York.

"We cannot conclude that the evidence rises to the high level necessary to charge the engineer or anyone else with a criminal offense," the office said in an unsigned statement.

The current district attorney, Seth Williams, remains in office although his law license has been suspended amid a federal bribery indictment set for trial May 31. A deputy is overseeing legal decisions, the office has said.

Amtrak has taken responsibility for the crash and agreed to pay $265 million to settle related claims.

Bostian has a personal injury suit pending against Amtrak, saying he was left disoriented or unconscious when something struck his train before it derailed. However, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded that nothing struck the locomotive.

Asia

S. Korea's new president willing to visit rival North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—New South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday he was open to visiting rival North Korea under the right conditions to talk about Pyongyang's aggressive pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles.

Moon's softer stance on North Korea could create friction with Washington, which has swung from threats of military action to hints of dialogue as it seeks to formulate a policy under President Donald Trump.

Moon, speaking during his oath of office as the first liberal leader in a decade, also said he'll "sincerely negotiate" with the United States, Seoul's top ally, and China, South Korea's top trading partner, over the contentious deployment of an advanced U.S. missile-defense system in southern South Korea. The system has angered Beijing, which says its powerful radars allow Washington to spy on its own military operations.

In a speech at the National Assembly hours after being declared the winner of Tuesday's election, Moon pledged to work for peace on the Korean Peninsula amid growing worry over the North's expanding nuclear weapons and missiles program.

"I will quickly move to solve the crisis in national security. I am willing to go anywhere for the peace of the Korean Peninsula - if needed, I will fly immediately to Washington. I will go to Beijing and I will go to Tokyo. If the conditions shape up, I will go to Pyongyang," Moon said.

AP

South Korea's new President Moon Jae-in waves to neighborhoods and supporters upon his arrival at outside of the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

Moon, whose victory capped one of the most turbulent political stretches in the nation's recent history, assumed presidential duties early in the morning after the National Election Commission finished counting and declared him winner of the special election necessitated by the ousting of conservative Park Geun-hye.

He is also expected to nominate a prime minister, the country's No. 2 job that requires approval from lawmakers, and name his presidential chief of staff later Wednesday.

Moon thanked the millions of people who staged peaceful protests for months calling for the ouster of Park, who was impeached and arrested in March over a corruption scandal. He also offered a message of unity to his political rivals - Moon's Democratic Party has only 120 out of 300 seats in the National Assembly, so he may need broader support while pushing his key policies.

"Politics were turbulent (in the past several months), but our people showed greatness," Moon said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

18 injured in China knife attack; suspect shot, arrested

BEIJING (AP)—Police in northern China say 18 people were injured when a man attacked people on a city street with a knife. The Changchun police department said on its microblog that the 50-year-old suspect in Tuesday's attack was taken into custody after being shot. It said none of the injuries were life-threatening and officers were looking further into any possible motivations. The police microblog cited family members as saying that the suspect, Wang Yunwei, had formerly been hospitalized for mental health issues. China has seen numerous such incidents usually blamed on people with mental health issues or who bore grudges against their neighbors or society as a whole. Because Chinese law tightly restricts the sale and possession of firearms, mass attackers generally use knives or homemade explosives. Many of those incidents have occurred at schools, dating back to a series of attacks in 2010 in which nearly 20 children were killed, prompting a response from top government officials and leading many schools to beef up security. Last year, a knife-wielding assailant injured seven students outside a primary school in a northern city.

Myanmar police fire warning shots amid religious tension

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Police in Myanmar's main city fired have warning shots to break up a confrontation between Buddhists and Muslims that left at least one person injured. Police say the confrontation began after midnight Wednesday when Buddhist hard-liners entered a Muslim neighborhood claiming that ethnic Rohingya Muslims were hiding "illegally" in the area. It was the latest manifestation of rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the predominantly Buddhist nation, where ultra-nationalist Buddhist monks and their supporters forced the closure of two Muslim schools in Yangon last month. Rohingya in Myanmar are largely denied citizenship and basic rights. The majority of them live in western Myanmar and cannot travel without special permission.

World

Syrian troops shift focus to IS-held east

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's military launched a new assault Tuesday aimed at reasserting its authority in the east of the country, battling U.S.-backed opposition fighters in the remote desert near the borders with Iraq and Jordan. The government forces' ultimate goal is to insert itself in the fight against the Islamic State group in the oil-rich region.

The government offensive came as the Trump administration announced it would arm Syria's Kurdish fighters "as necessary" to recapture the key Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa. The decision is meant to accelerate the Raqqa operation, but is strongly opposed by key NATO ally Turkey, which sees the Syrian Kurdish group, known as the YPG, as an extension of the Kurdish insurgency raging in its southeast.

The decision is likely to complicate the way going forward, as the U.S. has deployed additional troops to act as a buffer between Syria's Kurds and Turkey along the country's northern border.

Dana W. White, the Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, said in a written statement that President Donald Trump's authorization of arms to the Syrian Kurds gives the Pentagon the go-ahead to "equip Kurdish elements of the Syrian Democratic Forces as necessary to ensure a clear victory over ISIS" in Raqqa. The U.S. sees the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which also includes Arab fighters, as its most effective battlefield partner against IS in northern and eastern Syria.

The statement did not specify the kinds of arms to be provided, but other officials have indicated that 120mm mortars, machine guns, ammunition and light armored vehicles were possibilities. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the matter, said the U.S. would not provide artillery or surface-to-air missiles.

Tuesday's offensive in the east opens another front against IS, this time pitting the U.S.- and Western-backed rebels against Syrian government forces and allied fighters. The clashes are part of a race for control of an area that stretches from the provincial capital of Deir el-Zour in northeastern Syria to the border with Iraq, where an estimated 10,000 IS fighters uprooted from Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, have been massing.

"Now the direction and main goal is to reach Deir el-Zour," Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said Monday, adding that the Syrian government's next target will likely be to reach the border with Iraq. "The priority now is what is happening in the desert, whether south, along the border with Jordan, or in the central desert or toward the borders with Iraq."

The declaration was coupled with an aggressive Syrian state media campaign against the U.S. presence in neighboring Jordan, where an annual U.S.-Jordanian military drill known as "Eager Lion" was taking place. About 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations were taking part in the drill, Jordan's state-run Petra news agency said.

Syrian government forces have kept a presence in Deir el-Zour- most of which was taken over by IS in 2014- holding onto an airport there at a high cost. It will not allow Western-backed rebels to turn it into some "rival power base or source of reserve leverage," said Sam Heller, a Syria expert with the Century Foundation.

Obama: Private sector is key to tackling climate change

MILAN (AP)—Former U.S. President Barack Obama says he's "confident that the United States will continue to move in the right direction" on climate change despite his successor's pledges to undo many of his policies.

On his first foreign foray since leaving office, Obama told an audience Tuesday at a Milan conference on food innovation in Italy that businesses in the United States are already committed to clean energy, in part due to cost-savings, which would help counteract moves by Donald Trump's administration.

While campaigning for president, Trump pledged to "cancel" the Paris Agreement, the first international deal to curb greenhouse gas emissions from both rich and poor countries. Obama enthusiastically supported the agreement, which was adopted by the United States and more than 190 other countries in 2015.

"The good news is, in part because of what we did over the last eight years, the private sector has already made a determination that the future is in clean energy. Investments are moving into clean energy," Obama said.

"It may be that some of the steps we put in place may move more slowly than they otherwise would have. But I'm confident that the United States will continue to move in the right direction," he said.

Obama referred to Trump by name only once, discussing efforts to roll back on Obama's own "aggressive standards" on fuel efficiency for passenger cars.

"The Trump administrative made a change," Obama said, but he added that those moves would be up against even stricter standards in California, the country's largest car market.

"So even if the rules change in Washington, there is not a U.S. automaker that can afford to produce a car that is not fuel efficient enough to be sold in California," Obama said.

More than 3,000 people, including government and business leaders, attended Obama's keynote address focusing on the intersection between climate change and food security, two issues that have long been an Obama focus.

Obama noted that food production was the second-largest driver of climate change after energy production. At the same time, he said, climate change is creating shrinking agricultural yields and spiking food prices that "in some places are leading to political instability."

"In fact, some of the refugee flows into Europe originate not only from conflict, but also places where there are food shortages. That will get far worse as climate change continues," Obama told the conference. "So if we don't take the necessary action to slow and ultimately stop these trends, the migration that has put such a burden on Europe already will just continue to grow."

Environment

Sharks are thriving in Southern California but dying in the San Francisco Bay, experts say

TNS

For seven consecutive weeks, hundreds of sharks have been washing up dead on the shores of the San Francisco Bay.

By JOSEPH SERNA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The California coast is teeming with young sharks, as warming waters and abundant food have created the ideal conditions for feeding, according to experts.

In Southern California, great white sharks have begun to arrive after spending the winter off Baja California. Recently, one of the sharks bit a chunk out of a mother's leg as she swam off San Onofre State Beach.

The woman, 35-year-old Leanne Ericson of Vista, remains in critical condition and has undergone two of several surgeries scheduled for her injuries, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

She lost a lot of blood and was temporarily in an induced coma.

"We are grateful for all of the concern, prayers and good wishes we have received in recent days from the many friends and strangers who have reached out to us from across the country, and indeed, the world," read a statement from Ericson's family, released to the Union-Tribune through Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla. "The situation could have been far graver had it not been for the number of emergency response personnel and others who provided the care she needed and saved her life."

Chris Lowe, a biology professor and director of the Shark Lab at California State, Long Beach, said the shark that attacked Ericson on Saturday was likely not a full-grown adult and mistook her for food. Typically, young great whites will feed on fish and rays.

"They have to learn to feed on their own and they're naïve," Lowe said. "They don't know how to chase down big prey."

Adult great whites feed on sea lions and other marine life off islands such as Catalina and San Nicholas, Lowe said. Although it's not exactly known where the mothers give birth, their babies immediately head toward the shore once they're born. The sharks are normally off Southern California's shores between May and October.

But last year, warm waters triggered by El Nino conditions kept the sharks here longer into the winter and drew them back earlier in the spring. Some of the 2- and 3-year-old sharks are here again earlier this year, Lowe said, though he's not sure why.

"Maybe it just wasn't cold enough to move those migrations. We just don't know what's going on this year," Lowe said.

But that's not the only shark mystery this year.

In San Francisco Bay, a huge die-off of leopard sharks and bat rays has sparked concerns among marine life experts.

For weeks now, dead leopard sharks — newborns and mature adults — have been washing up on beaches from San Mateo to Bolinas. Officials with the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation in Monterey believe years of debris, trash and chemical waste pent up in Bay Area storm drains and waterways have finally been washed into the bay because of this winter's epic storms and are killing the creatures that live there.

Tide gates inside the bay that close during high tide to prevent flooding during a storm can also trap sharks and bat rays in the bay, where they're then exposed to, and unable to escape, toxic runoff.

"This is an issue of San Francisco Bay sharks and associated wildlife being exposed to toxic watershed … due to Tide Gate entrapment and subsequent discharges into the San Francisco Bay," the center wrote on Facebook last week.

At the peak of the die-off, dozens of dead sharks were found daily along the coastline, the foundation said. The number of dead sharks has begun to drop in the last week.

In Southern California, however, the shark population is thriving.

Report: Puerto Rico has worst drinking water violation rate

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The U.S. territory of Puerto Rico has the worst rate of drinking water violations of any U.S. jurisdiction, with dangerous contaminants ranging from lead to disinfectants to coliform bacteria, an environmental group said Wednesday.

Nearly the entire island was supplied in 2015 with water from systems that violated the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act, according to a report from the Natural Resources Defense Council, which used the most recent statistics available.

"Most of these violations were for failure to test the water's safety or failure to report issues to the public or health authorities as required," the group said.

Officials said many of the violations have occurred for years, noting that there were nearly 34,000 violations from 2005 to 2015. In 2015 alone, nearly half of more than 400 water systems across the island violated federal health standards, according to the environmental group.

Karim Del Valle, a spokesman for Puerto Rico's Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, said the agency had no immediate comment.

The group said nearly the entire population of 3.4 million people was served by systems that violated standards regulating the presence of lead and copper. It said all but one of the more than 600 violations were for failure to test for lead or report problems to the public or health authorities.

Nearly 10 percent of the island's 300-plus water systems that serve small, rural communities were labeled serious violators in 2011 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Only one of those systems was in compliance in early 2015, the Natural Resources Defense Council said.

The group urged the U.S. territory's government and a fiscal control board overseeing the administration's finances to provide money for projects to improve the utility's infrastructure.

Puerto Rico's government, however, is struggling to provide basic services amid a 10-year-old recession. The water and sewer authority holds roughly $5 billion of the island's overall $73 billion public debt load that the government is seeking to restructure.

Previous cases settled between the water and sewer authority and the EPA did not result in any penalties because of what the federal agency said was "documented financial hardship" facing the island's government.

In Loving Memory of

†Joseph Aimin Reyes Jr.

Better Known As "Jun Onio"

Born to Life: August 19, 1980
Called to Eternal Rest: May 05, 2017

Pre-Deceased By:
Paternal Grandparents: †Jose Manahane Delos Reyes and †Rosa Aguon Reyes
Maternal Grandparents: †Mishio Aimin

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his parents, life-long partner, children, and family.
Parents: Joseph Aguon Reyes and Elerie Aimin Reyes
Lifelong Partner: Tricia Rose Duenas Del Rosario
Children: Elerie Rose Del Rosario Reyes, Elicia Jo Del Rosario Reyes, and Joseph Herbert Del Rosario Reyes
Grandmother: Namiko Aimin

Brothers and Sisters:
- Ricky/Caroline (Oshiana, Ricky, Javin, Jaeden, and Ariyahna)
- Manasa/ Betsy (Austin Joshua and Francisco Joseph)
- Michael/Julie Ann (Roland and Jamie Ann)
- Mishio Joshua

Parents In-Law: †Herbert S. Del Rosario/Rose D. Del Rosario (PPD)

Brothers and Sisters In-Law:
- Dorsha/Eduard Jr. Guinto and Family
- †John Peter/Darrah Benavente and Family
- Tracy Lynn D. Del Rosario
- Wilber Ngotel Jr./Desiree Valdez and Family
- Herman Herbert D. Del Rosario Jr.
- Trianna Jamae D. Del Rosario

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of his soul is being celebrated each evening at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS,
Thank you – Si ' Yu'us Ma'ase

Tricia Rose Duenas Del Rosario and Children
Joseph A. and Elerie A. Reyes
†Herbert S. and Rose D. Del Rosario

Life & Style

In 'Alien: Covenant,' a return to gut-busting horror

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

AP
This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows a scene from "Alien: Covenant."

Ah, the siren song of John Denver. Who among us can resist it? Certainly, not the crew of the Covenant, a vessel powered by a golden sail cruising through space with 2,000 "colonists" in hyper sleep and years to go until they reach their destination.

But when a shock wave from a solar flare jostles the crew awake, they soon begin hearing a faint transmission of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" emanating from a curiously Earth-like planet. Such sonic waves would be expected if this was "Guardians of the Galaxy," but this is the "Alien" universe—no place for sunny '70s singer-songwriters. When the antsy crew deviates from their carefully planned mission to seek the transmission's source, we know it's only a matter of time until cosmic crustaceans begin bursting forth from bodies. Take me home? You betcha.

"Alien: Covenant" is, itself, a homecoming of sorts for a well-traveled franchise. Since Ridley Scott's 1979 original—still the ultimate deep-space horror—"Alien" has passed through numerous directors (James Cameron, David Fincher, Jean-Pierre Jeunet) and a prequel reboot, Scott's "Prometheus." That film, more bloodless and brainy, sought to answer questions of origin with some pretty audacious backstory and—there's just no easy way to say this—eyebrow-less colossuses who created the universe.

In Scott's "Alien: Covenant," taking place ten years after "Prometheus," the so-called Engineers are, thankfully, nowhere to be seen. Back instead are everyone's favorite extraterrestrials, those acid-dripping drama queens so fond of making a big entrance. Like some of the alien offspring, "Covenant" is a hybrid: part gory "Alien"-style scare-fest, part chilly "Prometheus" existentialism. It's a tall order of thrills and theology that the ever gung-ho Scott, working from a script by John Logan and Dante Harper, comes close to pulling off.

But while "Alien: Covenant" has an ace up its sleeve—Michael Fassbender times two—the sheer number of tricks "Alien: Covenant" pulls out, some of them lifted from the five earlier installments, adds to a general sense of deja vu, which is no doubt made worse by the many "Alien" rip-offs that now adorn our galaxy. Yet what was once a slithery straightforward monster movie in space has mutated into an impressively ambitious but overly ornate saga. "Alien: Covenant" has plenty to offer, but unfortunately requires ample study of "Prometheus."

The captain of the Covenant (James Franco, for a heartbeat) doesn't survive the shock wave, leaving the uncertain Oram (Billy Crudup) to lead the crew that includes Daniels (Katherine Waterson, our more demure, less imposing Ripley), the imprudent pilot Tennessee (Danny McBride) and Walter (Fassbender), an upgraded model of David, the android the actor played in "Prometheus."

It's Oram's decision to detour for the John Denver-blasting planet, one that initially looks smart. Once through the stormy atmosphere, they find a beautifully mountainous landscape complete with foggy lakes and fields of wheat. But there are ominous warnings, like an eerie silence because of the lack of any animals or birds. And who planted the wheat? When one of the crew members says he's going to "take a leak," he might as well be announcing his imminent death.

When things go haywire, the crew freak out and make such poor, emotional decisions that you, as in prior "Alien" films, find yourself rooting for the creatures with bike-helmet skulls. They might not be pretty, but they're not foolish.

The "Alien" films have always been where our idealistic adventuring and world-conquering hubris are brutally brought down to earth, even in the deep reaches of space. That's why the insertion of an artificial intelligence has been fitting. The lone human(ish) presence on the planet turns out to be David, who has, ala "Apocalypse Now," been living a godlike existence, lording over his creations.

Not as intensely mechanical as his newer model, he has clearly developed some unusual glitches. He quotes Byron, with jealousy. Like a robot Brando, he sings "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" while trimming his hair. He's a kind of frustrated poet who yearns to create like the man who made him.

The scenes between David and Walter have a strange, erotic energy. David, trying to unshackle his fellow android from servitude, urges him to make music and teaches him how to play a recorder. "You have symphonies in you, brother!" he encourages. For Fassbender, an actor capable of precision and madness in equal measure, the dual parts are a feast.

There are moments for Daniels and the Alien, too, as "Alien: Covenant" winds along. But by the film's belabored end, the franchise has shed its host. This is no longer an "Alien" movie, it's an android one.

"Alien: Covenant," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sci-fi violence, bloody images, language and some sexuality/nudity." Running time: 123 minutes.

Dance mom to dance con: Abby Lee Miller gets year in prison

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Former "Dance Moms" reality TV star Abby Lee Miller was sentenced Tuesday to a year and a day in prison for hiding $775,000 worth of income and bringing $120,000 worth of Australian currency into the U.S. without reporting it.

U.S. District Judge Joy Flowers Conti also fined Miller $40,000—on top of the $120,000 in currency she's forfeiting as part of guilty pleas entered last year—and ordered her to spend two years on probation after prison.

Miller, 51, filed for bankruptcy, just as her star was rising in late 2010, after defaulting on a $245,000 Florida condominium mortgage and a $96,000 mortgage on her Abby Lee Dance Company studio in Penn Hills, a Pittsburgh suburb.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Melucci told the judge that Miller went from being a "dance mom in the bankruptcy case to dance con" by hiding her income.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Thomas Agresti nearly approved a plan to let Miller repay her creditors at lower interest rates and longer terms before he saw her on TV one night and figured she must be making far more than the $8,899 in monthly income she initially declared. It's a crime to deceive a bankruptcy judge about one's income and assets because that information is used to determine how much and how soon creditors will receive in the court-ordered repayment plan.

Miller eventually coughed up $288,000 in TV income she didn't initially report in 2012, then federal investigators found she'd hidden nearly $550,000 more from personal appearances, dance sessions and merchandise sales.

Defense attorney Robert Ridge asked the judge to not hold Miller's celebrity against her, saying Miller "was ill-equipped to deal with the brand that she became."

The "Dance Moms" star was known for her brash behavior and pursuit of perfectionism from her dance students. The show followed a class of Miller's elite students and the perilous relationship she has with the girls' mothers. Critics of "Dance Moms" accused Miller of being emotionally abusive toward the girls, and many episodes show her students dissolving into tears after a harsh critique.

Miller announced in March that she was leaving the show. She's now working out of a dance studio near Los Angeles, and Conti agreed to recommend that federal prison officials let her serve her sentence as close to her new business base of operations as possible. Miller must report to prison in a few weeks.

'Perfect Storm' ship about to become part of artificial reef

CAPE MAY, N.J. (AP)—The ship made famous in the book and subsequent film "The Perfect Storm" is about to be intentionally sunk off the New Jersey and Delaware coasts so it can become part of an artificial reef.

The sinking of the Tamaroa, a 205-foot (62-meter) Coast Guard vessel, initially was scheduled to take place several months ago, but was repeatedly delayed by rough seas and other related issues.

Officials say they plan to sink it Wednesday morning, about 33 nautical miles (61 kilometers) off the coast of Cape May, New Jersey. They note that the ocean waters need to be as calm as possible so the vessel can sink straight down to the reef.

Extensive work also had to be done before the ship could be sunk, including the removal of interior paneling and insulation as well as emptying and cleaning the vessel of all fuel and fluids.

A tugboat began hauling the Tamaroa from a Norfolk, Virginia, shipyard on Monday afternoon and it slowly made its way up the Eastern Seaboard on Tuesday without any issues, according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The Tamaroa was first commissioned by the U.S. Navy in 1934 under the name Zuni and saw action during World War II when it helped tow damaged vessels across the war-torn Pacific Ocean. It was transferred to the Coast Guard and renamed in 1946, then continued to serve until it eventually was decommissioned in 1994.

The vessel's most notable mission came in October 1991, when three strong storm systems came together off the New England coast, generating 40-foot (12-meter) waves and wind gusts of more than 70 mph.

The Tamaroa's crew helped save three people aboard a sailboat that was caught in the storm. They also rescued four of five crewmen of an Air National Guard helicopter that ran out of fuel during a similar rescue mission and had to be ditched in the ocean.

Carrie Underwood helping fund girls sports programs

Carrie Underwood will be funding girls team sports projects in an agreement with the DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation and its Sports Matter program.

Through CALIA by Carrie Underwood, a fitness and lifestyle brand created in partnership with DICK'S, the country music superstar will fund an estimated 100 teams across America this month. The projects will be part of a $500,000 commitment to support girls youth sports across the country.

"Sports were a big part of my life growing up, so it's important to me that girls across the country get those same opportunities," said Underwood, whose projects will be funded on the education crowdfunding platform, DonorsChoose.org. "Through Sports Matter, CALIA and The DICK'S Foundation, we are empowering hundreds of girls across the country to learn, grow and dream, teaching them to do what they love later in life."

Two grants were awarded in 2016: $100,000 to Underwood's alma mater, Checotah (Oklahoma) School District's girls athletic programs, and $100,000 to Aldine Independent School District's girls athletic programs in Houston.

The Sports Matter initiatives have included a multi-year $50 million commitment to raise awareness and support youth sports programs facing budget shortfalls. ***(AP)***

Colbert welcomes fellow 'Daily Show' alums to 'Late Show'

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a rare TV reunion Tuesday as Stephen Colbert played host to a gang of fellow "Daily Show" alums on a special edition of CBS' "The Late Show."

Along with Jon Stewart, former longtime anchor of the Comedy Central fake newscast, Colbert welcomed Samantha Bee, John Oliver, Ed Helms and Rob Corddry, all of whom, like Colbert, sharpened their satirical skills and won fans as "Daily Show" correspondents before heading out on their own.

Colbert joked, "We haven't aged a day."

A comic sketch flashed back to spoof Colbert's departure from "The Daily Show" in 2005.

"I can't believe you're leaving right in the middle of the George W. Bush administration," Bee told him. "There's never gonna be another president this good for comedy. This guy does something ridiculous like at least ONCE every MONTH!"

AP
In this Sept. 22, 2010 file photo, Jon Stewart, from Comedy Central's " "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," left, shakes hands with Bill O'Reilly during the taping of a segment on "The O'Reilly Factor," on the FOX News Channel, in New York.

"I can't believe you're leaving us," echoed Helms. "It's like Beyonce leaving Destiny's Child. We're never gonna hear from HER again."

"We're a family," said Stewart, pretending to choke up, "but I guess I'm realizing that you'll all spread your wings and leave me."

Later, during his guest spot, Stewart told Colbert, "I've been reading about you." Referring to Colbert's attention-grabbing joke last week at the expense of President Donald Trump, he said, "You have a potty mouth."

"That I do," Colbert replied. "But might I say, I learned it from you, Dad."

Growing serious, Stewart told Colbert, "The things that you say, even if they're crass, even if they in some ways are not respectful enough to the office of the presidency, can insult. But HE can injure. For the life of me, I do not understand why in this country we try and hold comedians to a standard we do not hold our leaders to."

Stewart, who left "The Daily Show" in 2015, said he misses that platform.

"The process of making the show somehow became intwined with my process of making sense of things that I didn't understand," he said, "so I miss that."

Later, Colbert gathered all of his guests to chat in a semi-circle of chairs.

"This arrangement we have right now," he said, "is exactly something we would have made fun of on 'The Daily Show': It looks like a morning show."

Steve McQueen to direct authorized Tupac Shakur documentary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Academy Award-winner Steve McQueen is set to direct a documentary about Tupac Shakur. Shakur Estate trustee Tom Whalley and Amaru Entertainment said Tuesday that the film is fully sanctioned by the late hip-hop artist's estate.

McQueen is best known for directing "12 Years a Slave," which won the best picture Oscar in 2014 and earned him a best director nomination.

The director said in a statement that he looks forward to working with Shakur's family to bring his unvarnished story to life. Shakur's aunt and late mother's sister Gloria Cox will serve as an executive producer.

"Few, if any shined brighter than Tupac Shakur," said McQueen, who hinted there was some overlap between himself and Shakur during his time at NYU film school in 1993.

Whalley hopes that the documentary will help take Shakur's legacy beyond "the refraction of the headlines, the controversy, and the tragic way his life ended." Shakur died in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Las Vegas in 1996, at age 25.

Cox said that the genesis of the project started with Shakur himself in 1996 and was something that his mother Afeni Shakur continued pursuing until her death last year.

Rolling Stones heading back on the road, this time in Europe

LONDON (AP)—The Rolling Stones are going back on the road, this time staying a bit closer to home with a European tour.

The rock stalwarts said Tuesday they will play 13 gigs in nine countries starting in September.

The European sojourn will include stadium performances in France, Germany and Spain. It's been dubbed the Stones—No Filter tour.

It will kick off in Hamburg September 9 and include a first ever major music gig in the medieval Italian city of Lucca.

Singer Mick Jagger said he was "so excited to be touring Europe this autumn and returning to some familiar places and some we've never done before."

The tour follows last year's jaunt through South America, which included a first-ever performance in Cuba.

Keith Urban, Ballerini, Rhett top contenders at CMT Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Kelsea Ballerini, Thomas Rhett and Keith Urban lead the 2017 CMT Music Awards nominations with four each, including nods in the video of the year and social superstar categories.

CMT announced the nominees Tuesday for their awards show to be held on June 7 in Nashville, Tennessee. Lauren Alaina, Luke Bryan, Florida Georgia Line and Carrie Underwood have three nominations each.

A total of 14 videos were up for the top prize, video of the year, which is voted on by fans online at CMT.com . Some of those nominees include Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, Brad Paisley and Dierks Bentley.

The show will feature performances by Rhett, Bryan, Lambert, Blake Shelton and Brett Eldredge. Actor and musician Charles Esten, of the TV show "Nashville," will host the awards show.

Parents refuse to confront reason their son is bullied

DEAR ABBY: We have some great friends we have known for five years. Our families enjoy time together, and although the friendship started through our kids, I now get together with the other mom outside of kid-related activities. Her son, "Michael," and my daughter (ages 12) are best friends in middle school, and I truly care for him, as well as his family.

I have assumed for a long time that Michael is gay. Since late last year, he's been having a lot of trouble with a certain group of boys who call him gay—among other names—and bully him.

His mom knows he is different, but his dad is deep in denial, doing his best to force his son to associate with this group of kids because they are "jocks" and popular. Michael hangs out with and is most comfortable with girls. It has always been this way, in spite of his parents' attempts to find him a boy group to fit into.

The bullying is escalating and, while his dad remains in denial, his mom is telling Michael to ignore it and not draw attention to himself for fear it may get worse. She thinks "he tends to bring these things on himself by hanging out with girls and liking the things he likes."

I'm scared for the boy. He is the always-smiling, happy-go-lucky kid on the outside, but there's no way he can be feeling that way on the inside being on the receiving end of this kind of abuse every day. I have encouraged his mom to talk to school authorities, but she refuses. We have never spoken directly about the possibility that Michael may be gay because I can feel the fear and denial in what she isn't saying. What can I do?

HIS B.F.F.'S MOM

DEAR MOM: It is tragic that Michael's parents can't accept their son for who he is, rather than who they would like him to be. That's why it is absolutely vital that you befriend that boy to the best of your ability.

Contact PFLAG (pflag.org) and request information about how to support a young person who is more than likely LGBT. Let the boy know you love him just the way he is and that being different isn't wrong. If you do, it could mean the difference between life and death -- and that's no exaggeration.

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to a wonderful, loving, respectful man I have known for seven months. But when he drinks too much, he starts saying I should meet someone else because he's not good enough for me. It's like he's trying to drive me away.

Do you think this is how he really feels? He says if I want to leave, he'll understand, because I deserve someone better. What should I do?

ENGAGED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ENGAGED: Talk to your fiance about this when he's SOBER. Realize that your wonderful, loving, respectful gentleman may have a drinking problem, so be prepared in advance by visiting an Al-Anon group.

It should be plain to you that he has self-esteem issues that could have a negative impact on your relationship if they aren't dealt with. So make your engagement a long one to be sure he's willing and able to do that.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THIS HAIRCUT HAD BETTER LOOK GOOD, FUZZ BRAIN.
YOU'LL LOVE IT. IT'S KIND OF "NEW WAVE."
NEW WAVE? LIKE HOW?
WELL, SORT OF "PUNK," ACTUALLY.
LIKE A MOHAWK?
IN SOME PLACES IT'S SORT OF LIKE A MOHAWK.
I WANT A MIRROR.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE RAGE THIS YEAR? ...HATS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU TWO SHOULD TALK. MR. HIP HOP IS RECENTLY OUT OF WORK, AS WELL.
KATY, I'M NOT OUT OF WORK. I JUST FINISHED MY JOBS.
I FREELANCE. IT'S DIFFERENT THAN NORMAL JOBS.
THAT'S WHAT MR. HIP HOP SAID ABOUT HIS AMWAY JOB.
YEAH. CAN MR. HIP HOP GO BACK IN THE TOY CHEST NOW?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TRYING TO REMEMBER MY PASSWORD.
I CHANGED IT THE LAST TIME I LOGGED IN IN ORDER TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR SOMEONE TO HACK OUR ACCOUNT.
TRY "NEW PASSWORD."
THAT'S IT!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sleeve end
5 Lemon
8 Does in, mob-style
12 Cruising
13 Simile center
14 Journey
15 Riga native
16 Actor McKellen
17 Roof overhang
18 Brawl
20 Never-before-seen
22 "Little Women" woman
23 Sort
24 Ancient Brit
27 Pear-shaped instrument
32 Boxing legend
33 Lawyers' org.
34 Equal (Pref.)
35 Kitchen flooring
38 Unforeseen problem
39 Chap
40 Tolkien creature
42 Crimped, like a pie crust
45 Warm and cozy
49 Clark's love
50 Actress Thurman
52 Naked
53 Teen's woe
54 Beer barrel
55 Property claim
56 Bard
57 UFO crew
58 BPOE members

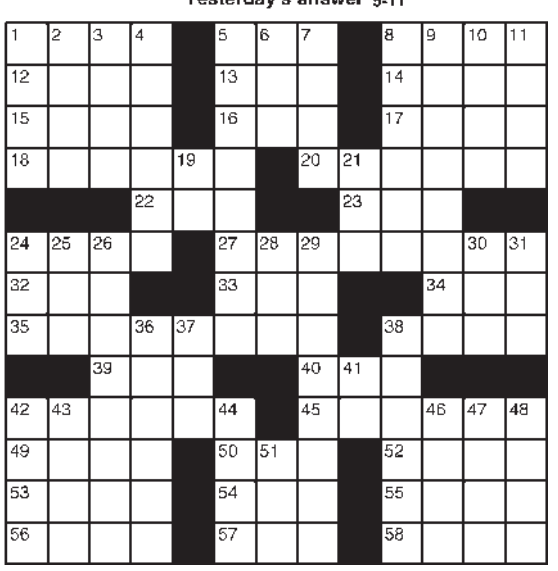
DOWN

1 Young cow
2 —-friendly
3 Greek salad cheese
4 Nabob
5 Dogpatch gal
6 Olympics chant
7 Comic Carvey
8 Verdi opera
9 "Queen of Soul" Aretha
10 Common quitting time
11 Gush
19 Exist
21 Cover
24 — Tech
25 Yalie
26 Pasta variety
28 Dhabi preceder
29 Convention IDs
30 "This — stickup!"
31 Yule quaff
36 Square one
37 Caustic solution
38 Not wobbly
41 Rejection
42 Envelope part
43 Crazy
44 Nobleman
46 Go yachting
47 Arduous journey
48 Desires
51 Convened

Solution time: 24 mins.

R	E	A	D	■	L	O	G	■	A	G	R	A
A	R	N	C	■	B	R	O	■	P	R	O	W
G	R	E	A	T	J	O	B	■	R	E	A	L
A	S	T	R	O	■	■	S	M	E	A	R	S
■	■	■	T	E	A	M	■	E	S	T	■	■
S	I	G	H	■	L	O	O	T	■	F	C	B
A	I	R	■	C	I	R	C	A	■	U	N	O
W	I	C	■	U	T	A	H	■	S	N	O	W
■	■	■	A	S	P	■	L	O	I	N	■	■
O	B	T	U	S	E	■	■	F	I	F	F	S
D	O	W	N	■	G	R	E	A	T	A	P	E
E	L	A	N	■	A	B	S	■	C	R	E	E
H	O	R	Y	■	D	I	P	■	H	O	E	D

Yesterday's answer 5-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Holly Valance, 34; Amanda Freitag, 45; Frances Fisher, 65; Eric Burdon, 76.

Happy Birthday: Live and learn. Contemplate where you are emotionally and how you feel about the people in your life. Make decisions that will improve your life and help you feel stable and secure heading into the future. Not everyone will like the choices you make, but this time around, try to do what's best for you. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 28, 33, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An emotional incident will end up costing you financially if you aren't careful. Don't make promises you can't keep or overspend on someone or something you don't need. Err on the side of frugality and you'll avoid a stressful situation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Good fortune will come from a better understanding of the people you live and work with. Focus on partnerships and how fair and equal you feel about the situations you are in with individuals who have a daily impact on your life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Rely on a partner or a colleague you have helped in the past to offer solutions or alternatives that will help you excel. Collaboration will bring you closer to someone you enjoy working alongside. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Social activities, doing things with youngsters and taking care of personal matters will bring you joy and satisfaction. Don't let work-related matters get you down when you should be focusing on the positive developments around you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Work by yourself. If someone interferes in your plans, be blunt about the way you feel and how you wish to move forward. Stability and good results will stem from honesty and belief in your abilities. Don't waffle -- get the job done. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotional situations will escalate quickly if you haven't been paying enough attention to the way others respond to what you say and do. Don't limit what you can achieve by burning bridges or not addressing issues openly and honestly. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Flush out any negativity you face by focusing on the positive aspects in your life. Updating your appearance or nurturing a relationship with someone special will lead to a change that could enhance your future. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Concentrate on making physical improvements. Whether you change your diet or implement a new physical routine, the key will be to improve the way you handle your life decisions. Strive for excellence. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Use your emotional energy wisely. Focus on making someone you love happy. Avoid any confusion by sticking to the truth. If you are evasive, someone will point it out and make you look bad in front of others. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Work from home or make personal changes that will improve your surroundings. Take a moment to consider what makes you happy and include it in your everyday routine. Don't give in to pestering or someone who is looking for a handout. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of matters concerning government agencies and financial or medical institutions before it's too late. Being punctual will help you avert a problem that could hold you back. Speak up and make suggestions that will ease your time restraints. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make a promise to someone you love. Offering to pitch in and help will show your willingness to be a team player, but don't let your generous and thoughtful attitude stand between you and your own success. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, proactive and protective. You are passionate and tireless.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave

9	4				5			2
			7		6	5		1
	5							
7	8						1	
	1						8	3
							5	
2		6	8		7			
5			3				6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	7	1	9	3	2	4	6	8
3	4	9	6	8	1	2	7	5
2	6	8	5	4	7	1	3	9
6	8	2	1	5	3	9	4	7
1	9	7	4	2	6	5	8	3
4	3	5	7	9	8	6	2	1
9	5	3	2	7	4	8	1	6
7	2	6	8	1	5	3	9	4
8	1	4	3	6	9	7	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/11

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JOEL OSTEEN Solution: 6 letters

R	T	W	O	R	D	E	C	N	A	D	N	U	B	A
E	E	T	S	I	L	E	G	N	A	V	E	L	E	T
L	X	N	K	A	E	P	S	S	T	E	P	S	L	T
A	A	E	N	H	O	J	P	S	J	R	R	C	I	E
T	S	I	P	I	G	A	R	O	E	E	B	R	E	N
I	I	N	R	O	W	O	N	A	T	L	I	I	V	D
O	L	O	D	O	H	A	C	N	O	U	B	P	I	A
N	S	C	O	T	T	H	E	R	F	A	L	T	N	N
S	S	I	U	H	E	C	A	A	S	P	E	U	G	C
H	E	A	A	R	Q	L	I	T	A	M	A	R	A	E
I	N	N	A	A	E	T	T	V	F	R	E	E	T	I
P	D	C	P	P	H	O	U	S	T	O	N	S	R	D
S	O	M	S	O	A	R	D	N	A	X	E	L	A	O
D	O	O	W	E	K	A	L	D	E	T	O	V	E	D
C	G	N	I	L	I	M	S	R	H	C	R	U	H	C

©2011 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 5/11

Abundance, Alexandra, Attendance, Author, Believing, Bible, Blessed, Care, Church, Compaq Center, Devoted, Dodie, Faith, Free, God, Goodness, Gospel, Heart, Hope, Houston, Icon, John, Jonathan, Lakewood, Lisa, Oral, Paul, Preacher, Relationships, Scott, Scriptures, Smiling, Speak, Steps, Tamara, Televangelist, Texas, Victoria, Winner, Word

Yesterday's Answer: Tar Heels

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay cash. Call Lucy at 285-9295

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Piano for sale: A gorgeous Young Chang upright piano for sale. C-110 in good condition, has a smooth touch and good sound. (Contact # 484-5234)

WHATZIT Solution:
Bare minimum

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Saipan Tribune

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Requirements:
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- Knowledge of Room Master
- Positive attitude and excellent communications skills
- Can multi-task and work flexible hours
- Team player

Interested individuals may apply in person at the 2nd Floor Office of Jones and Guerrero Building (next to Hollywood Video Shop), Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Or you may send your resume to townhousesaipan@gmail.com no later than May 19, 2017.

KARIDAT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

One (1) Shelter Worker

For more information, job description can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Chalan Piao.
Documents Required: Completed application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES, PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: May 12, 2017

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

6 Mason - $6.55
6 Carpenter - $6.55
2 Electrician - $6.55

Interested applicant must contact and submit resume to BPR General Contractor/ Consulting Firm, LLC.
P.O. Box 504549
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. 670-234-9127
Email: brian@pticom.com

AM GROUP, LLC

PMB 133 BOX 10000 SAIPAN, MP 96950

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INSPECTION TEAM LEADER
Openings: 10 Salary Range: $10.00 - $12.00 Hourly
Qualification Requirements: Associate Degree or higher. 2-3 years' experience. Extensive experience as a inspection team leader to include assisting to oversee daily operations, supervise workers on the job site, verify all correspondence with vendors and contractors, and leadership qualities in a construction environment. Knowledge of CNMI/U.S. OSHA regulations and other related certificates. Must be able to communicate in written and verbal English.

PROJECT TIME KEEPER
Openings: 10 Salary Range: $6.55 - $10.00 Hourly
Qualification Requirements: 1 year experience in a timekeeping or other field operational position. High school diploma/GED.

FACADE TECHNICIAN
Openings: 50 Salary Range: $6.55 - $10.00 Hourly
Qualification Requirements: 1-2 years relevant working experience as facade design installer. Capable of installing glass and aluminum works as per plan and specifications required by architect and project manager. Knowledgeable on safety procedures and safety guidelines and regulations in work area. Has previous experience as Glass Installer for high rise building. Knowledgeable on proper glass installation procedures for (unitize system and structural system), doors, windows, skylight and composite panels installation. Be comfortable working at heights and in all weather conditions. This is a physically demanding role. There will be working off scaffolding, towers and ladders and heavy lifting involved frequently.

MASON WORKER
Openings: 200 Salary Range: $6.55 - $10.00 Hourly
Qualification Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent apprenticeship, related on the job experience. Minimum of 1 year working experiences as a mason worker. Possess of relevant skill, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national decoration operations for the benefits of people and property. Knowledge of relevant equipment for decoration work, including use, connection, and wiring. Ability to follow engineering instructions and diagram, rules and regulations. Ability to read and understand precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models. Willing to follow instructions and orders from superiors; Willing to work closely with other colleagues. Must have a good team work spirits. Must be physically fit and able to work in shifts.

PAINTER
Openings: 100 Salary Range: $6.55 - $10.00 Hourly
Qualification Requirements: 1 year experience in the field required. Ability to do the work of a painter without more than normal supervision (Screen-Out Element). Knowledge of equipment assembly, installation and repair. Technical practices (theoretical, precise, artistic) and troubleshooting. Ability to interpret instructions, specification, etc. (including reading blueprints). Ability to use and maintain tools and equipment. Knowledge of materials.

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JOE HILL, Esq.
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753
Attorney for Petitioner/Administratix
Jacinta Muna Lacy

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOSE CABRERA MUNA, DECEASED.	Civil Action No. 17-0116-CV NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOSE CABRERA MUNA OR OF HIS ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Jacinta Muna Lacy, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Letters of Administration for the estate of Jose Cabrera Muna, deceased. The attorney of record is Joe Hill of Joe Hill Law Offices, P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950.

The said Petition is set for hearing on June 1, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., before the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at the said scheduled hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or the Estate of Jose Cabrera Muna, or his Estate, are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice, or the claim(s) will be forever barred.

A copy of your claim(s) should also be sent to the attorney for Petition/Administratix, Jacinta Muna Lacy, **Joe Hill, Hill Law Offices**, whose address is **Tokcha Avenue at Lulai Wy, Susupe, Saipan, P.O. Box 500917, MP 96950.**

Dated this 8th day of May, 2017.
Clerk of Court, Superior Court

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Spurs overcome Leonard injury, Harden to beat Rockets in OT

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs were in a tough spot after Kawhi Leonard hurt his ankle in the second half.

That's when Danny Green and the Spurs' supporting cast stepped up.

Green scored seven of his 16 points in overtime, helping San Antonio top James Harden and the Houston Rockets 110-107 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Harden had 33 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. He had a chance at a potential tying 3-pointer in the final seconds of OT, but was blocked from behind by Manu Ginobili.

"I remember saying to a couple of the guys this is what we live for, these moments, to play in these situations," Spurs point guard Patty Mills said. "Game 5, at home, you just try to soak it up and play hard. I guess that's where all the passion comes out, at those moments. The diving on loose balls, coming up with whatever it may be, you're throwing your body on the line in those situations."

Leonard had 22 points and 15 rebounds in 38 minutes before exiting with an injured right ankle. He stepped on Harden's foot while running back in transition with 5:37 left in the third quarter and then played limited minutes before sitting out overtime.

The Spurs already were without Tony Parker, who will miss the rest of the playoffs after surgery to repair a ruptured left quadriceps tendon.

"It was frustrating because I wanted to play," Leonard said. "But I was happy seeing my teammates out there putting in a good effort and getting the win."

Leonard said he will play in Game 6 on Thursday in Houston.

Green made a go-ahead 3-pointer and converted a three-point play to make it 109-107 Spurs with 30.1 seconds left. He also made a foul shot down the stretch to help San Antonio hold on.

"I think we all made a decision to be aggressive," Green said of Leonard's absence, "regardless of what was going to happen. We weren't going to lose the game being on our heels."

Two questionable plays closed regulation with the game tied at 101.

Harden was whistled for a charge after dribbling all but a few seconds off the shot clock before driving to the basket on Jonathon Simmons. The Spurs failed to take a shot on their final possession, with Mills banking in a 3-pointer after the buzzer sounded.

Harden also played solid defense, helping hold Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge to 15-for-42 shooting as he rotated assignments in Houston's smaller lineup.

"I was trying to keep them in front of me," Harden said. "Two All-Stars and even Pau (Gasol), who is 7-foot-something. I just tried to be aggressive and do the best that I can and help my team."

But the defensive effort and facilitating Houston's offense appeared to take a toll on Harden. He had four points on 1-for-6 shooting and four turnovers in the final five minutes of regulation and overtime. Harden, who finished with nine turnovers, said he was not fatigued despite playing 43 minutes.

"I just missed shots," Harden said.

The Spurs tried to exploit a size advantage over the Rockets' small lineup early, especially when Harden was guarding either Aldridge and Gasol. The Spurs' big men only managed 2-for-5 shooting in the opening three minutes, leading San Antonio to abandon the strategy midway through the first quarter and sub Simmons for Gasol.

Simmons responded by scoring 10 points on 5-for-13 shooting in 26 minutes.

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili (20) of Argentina blocks Houston Rockets' James Harden three-point shot attempt in the final seconds of overtime of Game 5 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Tuesday, May 9, 2017, in San Antonio.

Warriors await challenge after cruising to 8-0 in playoffs

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Golden State Warriors are four wins from their third consecutive trip to the NBA Finals—and likely a third straight showdown with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

With four All-Stars, including two MVPs, it's not hard to see why.

The Warriors eliminated the Utah Jazz in a sweep Monday night and are 8-0 in the postseason for the first time in franchise history. The Cavaliers, coincidentally, also swept their first two opponents.

For Golden State, the games mostly haven't been close. Only one victory, Game 3 against the Portland Trail Blazers, was decided by fewer than 11 points, and the Warriors never trailed in three of the four games against Utah. The trio of Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Draymond Green has been consistently dominant, and Golden State's elite length and athleticism on defense have been stifling.

"We are mostly impressed with how we are playing our brand of basketball," Green said. "We really imposed our will on the other team. That's big. In the playoffs, you let a team get in a groove and it's hard to win games like that.

"We have imposed our will all eight games. That's important on the offensive and defensive end, and if you can do that, with the talent that we have, with the experience that we have, it will be tough to beat us."

In the Western Conference finals, Golden State will face the winner of the Spurs and Rockets, who are tied 2-2.

The Warriors are averaging a playoff-high 115.3 points per game, ahead of the Cavaliers' 114.5. Golden State is allowing 98.8 points in the postseason to lead all teams still alive and has a playoff-best 96.9 defensive rating.

The offense has come in waves. One second, it's Curry shining, then Durant or Green the next. All-Star Klay Thompson has been in a bit of a slump, but still scored 21 points in the 121-95 victory Monday night.

Even as games have gotten more physical, Golden State has stayed strong on the ball and kept turnovers to a minimum, said interim coach Mike Brown. The Warriors' 11.5 turnovers per game lead all teams still playing, and Brown thinks combining that with their elite shooting and defense makes for a peerless combination.

"We feel like have good shooters, good scorers and we would rather take a bad shot than us trying to make a hero play," Brown said. "And we have a tendency, at times, to try to make hero plays with the basketball because these guys all appreciate each other. For the most part, they want to make the pass to somebody as opposed to making the shot. They get some sort of satisfaction out of it.

"It doesn't matter if Steph comes down, crosses half-court and launches it. At least we got a shot at the rim. We feel like most of those are going to go in at the end of the day, so we're good with it."

The Warriors have been without coach Steve Kerr since Game 3 of the first round and haven't missed a beat. He remains out after having a spinal cord leak procedure at Duke University on Friday, and there is no timetable for his return. He and Brown speak regularly, but that's an obstacle to overcome.

Jazz coach Quin Snyder raved about the culture Kerr has created.

"They demonstrate it in everything that they do," Snyder said. "When a team kind of lives who they are, that is a unique group. They all believe in each other and they are willing to sacrifice for one another.

"Just the unselfishness that that group plays with and the care they have for one another on the court. They've got each other's backs."

So far, the Warriors have only been slowed during self-created lulls, like when the Jazz cut a 26-point second-quarter lead down to five before Golden State got back in gear.

The competition will get tougher, though. In the conference finals, they'll have to deal with either San Antonio's Kawhi Leonard or Houston's James Harden, and both players are better than any the Warriors have seen so far this postseason.

And then there's LeBron James, likely waiting in the finals.

"They're a historically great team," Jazz forward Gordon Hayward said. "They make you pay for mistakes. You have to be almost perfect every possession or they turn it into an 8-0 run, 9-0 run, 10-0 run. So you can't have mental lapses against a team like this."

Wheeler's 2-hitter leads Mets over Giants

NEW YORK (AP)—Zack Wheeler pitched two-hit ball against the team that traded him, Michael Conforto homered and the New York Mets scored four times in the first inning Tuesday on the way to a 6-1 victory over the staggering San Francisco Giants.

Hours after Matt Harvey returned from his three-day suspension with a string of contrite apologies, the banged-up Mets began moving on from their latest commotion. Despite all the injuries and turmoil, New York (16-16) has righted itself on the field by winning eight of 11 following a six-game slide.

Jeff Samardzija (0-5) and the Giants, outhit 13-2, are headed in the opposite direction after their fifth consecutive defeat and eighth in 10 games. San Francisco, with three World Series titles and four playoff appearances since 2010, had the majors' worst record at 11-23.

The team got more bad news moments before the first pitch when All-Star closer Mark Melancon was put on the disabled list — though it's not as if he has had many ninth-inning leads to protect.

Wheeler (2-2) went six innings in his best start since missing two seasons while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Orioles 5, Nationals 4, 12 innings

In Baltimore, Mark Trumbo singled in the tiebreaking run in the 12th inning, and the Orioles extended their season-best winning streak to six games.

Baltimore rallied from a late three-run deficit to complete a two-game sweep of its neighbor. The interleague series shifts to Washington for two games on Wednesday and Thursday.

Singles by Adam Jones and Manny Machado, along with an intentional walk to Chris Davis, loaded the bases for Trumbo against Jacob Turner (1-1). Trumbo hit the first pitch to left field, ending the game just seven minutes short of four hours.

Logan Verrett (2-0) pitched three shutout innings for the Orioles, who improved to 22-10, including 13-3 at home.

Reds 5, Yankees 3

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto singled with the bases loaded during the latest big inning off CC Sabathia, and the Reds stopped the Yankees' six-game win streak.

Sabathia (2-2) struggled for the fourth consecutive start, unable to get his fastball in the right spots until Cincinnati was in control. The Reds piled up six singles — most of them grounders through the infield — while scoring five runs in the second inning.

Sabathia gave up seven hits and five runs in six innings. His ERA has risen from 2.25 to 5.77 over his last four starts.

Tim Adleman (2-1), who was born in Staten Island, gave up three runs in five innings against the AL's top offense, including solo homers by Gary Sanchez and Didi Gregorius. Raisel Iglesias pitched the last two innings for his sixth save in six chances.

Indians 6, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Carlos Carrasco and two Cleveland relievers combined on a four-hitter, and Yan Gomes hit a three-run homer.

Lonnie Chisenhall reached base three times for the Indians, who scored more than three runs for the first time since a 12-4 win over Seattle on April 30.

Carrasco (4-2) pitched seven innings to remain unbeaten on the road. The right-hander is 4-0 with a 1.35 ERA in four road starts this season.

Andrew Miller worked the eighth and Nick Goody finished up.

Blue Jays designated hitter Kendrys Morales was pulled in the seventh inning because of tightness in his left hamstring. He grounded out twice before leaving.

Called up from Triple-A Buffalo to make his season debut, Blue Jays right-hander Mike Bolsinger (0-1) allowed two runs and three hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Rockies 10, Cubs 4, Game 1

Cubs 8, Rockies 1, Game 2

In Denver, John Lackey struck out 10 over seven scoreless innings and added an RBI single, helping the Cubs stop a four-game skid in the finale of a day-night doubleheader.

Chicago gave Lackey plenty of cushion with a five-run second inning against Kyle Freeland (3-2). Javier Baez added a two-run homer in the eighth and Kris Bryant tacked on a solo shot in the ninth.

Lackey (3-3) allowed just four singles, a sharp contrast to his previous start at Coors Field, when he surrendered 10 runs on June 8, 2015.

In the opener, Colorado scored six runs in the third inning and Mark Reynolds homered for a fourth straight game. Antonio Senzatela (5-1) pitched six innings of two-run ball.

Jake Arrieta (4-2) was removed after 3 2/3 innings — his shortest stint as a Cub. He surrendered nine hits and nine runs, but just five were earned.

AP

New York Mets starting pitcher Zack Wheeler delivers during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, in New York.

Brewers 11, Red Sox 7

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit his 13th homer in Milwaukee's five-run first inning, helping the Brewers overcome a big night for Mookie Betts.

Keon Broxton drove in four runs for Milwaukee, and Carlos Torres (2-3) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win.

Betts went 4 for 4, drove in four runs and finished a triple short of the cycle. Boston left-hander Drew Pomeranz (3-2) allowed six runs and seven hits in four innings.

Royals 7, Rays 6, 12 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Mike Moustakas homered in the 12th inning, helping the Royals to the road win.

Moustakas connected against Diego Moreno (0-1), the eighth Tampa Bay pitcher, on a 1-2 pitch with one out. Moreno was promoted from Triple-A Durham before the game.

Kansas City right-hander Jakob Junis (1-0), recalled from Triple-A Omaha, worked out of a two-on, one-out jam in the 11th. Kelvin Herrera got three outs for his fifth save.

Salvador Perez hit a two-run homer for the Royals. The All-Star catcher went 3 for 4 and walked twice.

Mariners 10, Phillies 9

In Philadelphia, Taylor Motter had the go-ahead RBI double in the ninth inning, Ben Gamel had four hits and the Mariners overcame a four-run deficit to beat the Phillies in Carlos Ruiz's return to Philadelphia.

Gamel went 4 for 5 with a three-run home run, two singles and a double. The right fielder also threw out the potential go-ahead run at home in the eighth.

Robinson Cano, who left the game with a quadriceps injury, also homered for the Mariners.

Michael Saunders, Tommy Joseph and Aaron Altherr also connected for the Phillies. Hector Neris (1-2) got the loss.

Nick Vincent (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning, and Edwin Diaz worked the ninth for his seventh save.

Ruiz, one of the key players in Philadelphia's run to consecutive World Series appearances in 2008-09, got a standing ovation when he pinch-hit in the eighth and flied out.

Cardinals 6, Marlins 5

In Miami, Pinch hitter Dexter Fowler singled home the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning, and the Cardinals rallied from a late four-run deficit for their fifth consecutive victory.

The game was tied when Magneuris Sierra reached on an infield single with one out in the ninth and continued to second on an errant throw to first by A.J. Ramos (1-2). Fowler, held out of the starting lineup for the previous five games because of a sore shoulder, followed with a sharp single to right field, and the speedy Sierra slid home ahead of Giancarlo Stanton's throw.

Trevor Rosenthal (1-1) pitched around a leadoff walk in the eighth. Seung Hwan Oh pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

Astros 8, Braves 3

In Houston, Carlos Correa and Carlos Beltran hit consecutive homers off Bartolo Colon during Houston's five-run first inning.

Houston led 4-0 after Correa launched a three-run shot with no outs. Beltran followed his third homer this season.

Josh Reddick also connected for Houston, belting a solo shot in the fifth for his 100th career homer.

Houston starter Charlie Morton (4-2) allowed three runs — one earned — in 5 2/3 innings for his third straight win.

Colon (1-4) gave up eight runs and three homers, both season highs, in 5 2/3 innings.

Twins 7, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Hector Santiago beat his former team once again and Byron Buxton tied his career high with three hits, leading the Twins to the victory.

Santiago (4-1) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings. The left-hander is 5-1 with a 1.59 ERA against the White Sox, who drafted him in the 30th round in 2006 and traded him in 2013 to the Los Angeles Angels.

Chicago scored twice in the third inning but did not have another hit until two outs in the ninth. Tyler Duffey and Taylor Rogers closed out Minnesota's four-hitter.

Kennys Vargas hit a two-run shot off Chicago's Mike Pelfrey (0-3) in the fourth inning.

Rangers 11, Padres 0

In San Diego, Rangers right-hander A.J. Griffin dominated his hometown Padres with a four-hitter for his second career shutout.

Joey Gallo, Ryan Rua and Robinson Chirinos homered for Texas, which scored two more runs than in its previous four games combined. Gallo and Rua each drove in three runs.

After splitting a two-game series, the teams head to Arlington for two more.

All four hits off Griffin (4-0) were singles, and the Padres got only one runner as far as third base.

San Diego right-hander Jered Weaver lasted only three innings, allowing seven runs and six hits.

Angels 7, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Yunel Escobar hit a three-run homer and had four RBIs, and Albert Pujols and Ben Revere added solo shots for Los Angeles as AL MVP Mike Trout missed his fourth straight game because of a tight left hamstring.

Yonder Alonso homered twice for Oakland, raising his career-best total to 11 with his second career two-homer game—four days after his first.

Alex Meyer (1-1) earned his first career road victory, allowing three runs, four hits and five walks in 5 1/3 innings, and Bud Norris got three outs for his sixth save

Jharel Cotton (3-4) fell to 0-4 in night games while going 3-0 during the day. He allowed a season-high seven runs in five innings.

Tigers 7, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Justin Upton and James McCann homered, and Mikie Mahtook singled in two runs.

Justin Verlander (3-2) won his second straight start, giving up three runs, seven hits and three walks in six-plus innings.

Robbie Ray (2-3) lost his third straight start, allowing five runs, five hits and five walks in five innings.

Dodgers 4, Pirates 3

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Austin Barnes doubled home the winning run with one out in the 10th against Daniel Hudson (0-2) as Los Angeles won its fourth straight. Pitcher Ross Stripling scored from first after pinch running for Yasmani Grandal, who led off the 10th with a single.

Los Angeles starter Julio Urias lost a no-hit bid when Andrew McCutchen doubled leading off the seventh inning. Urias pitched a career-high 6 1/3 innings, allowing a run, one hit and two walks with five strikeouts.

Kenley Jansen (2-0) pitched a scoreless 10th.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PSS/McDonald's All Schools starts today

Students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will troop to Hopwood Middle School Field today as Northern Mariana Athletics kicks off the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

Today's competition will feature four events—60m and 100 runs and softball throw for elementary, middle, and high school students and the javelin throw for middle school and high school entries. Day 1 of the three-day meet will begin at 4pm and teachers/coaches are advised to be at the venue with their respective teams at least 30 minutes before the start time.

The 60m run will start with the girls and boys U7 age group and will be followed by races in the U9, U11, U13, U15, and U18. Six runners in each race are from Saipan, while Rota and Tinian have one representative each. There are events without Rota and Tinian students, so NMA gave slots to other students from Saipan schools that joined the series of qualifiers. Over 70 runners are entered in the 60m races with only the Top 3 finishes in each age group (boys and girls) to receive medals at the awards ceremony.

In the softball throw, students in the U7, U9, and U11 are the only ones allowed to compete. In the boys and girls U11, 19 students are entered with both Tinian and Rota represented and colliding against Saipan bets. In the boys U9, six will battle for the Top 3, while nine will fight for the podium finish in the girls division. For the boys U17, it will be among the 10 qualifiers, while the girls side has only five entries.

In the 100m races, 80 students made the grade with majority of the age group competitions in the boys and girls fields having eight runners apiece.

For the javelin throw, 20 are lined up to participate in the boys and girls U13 divisions and four of them are from Tinian. In the U18 division, only Saipan schools will battle for the girls and boys titles with Mt. Carmel School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan International School, Agape Christian School, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School represented in the event. In the girls and boys U15, each division has eight students who will battle for the Top 3 finishes.

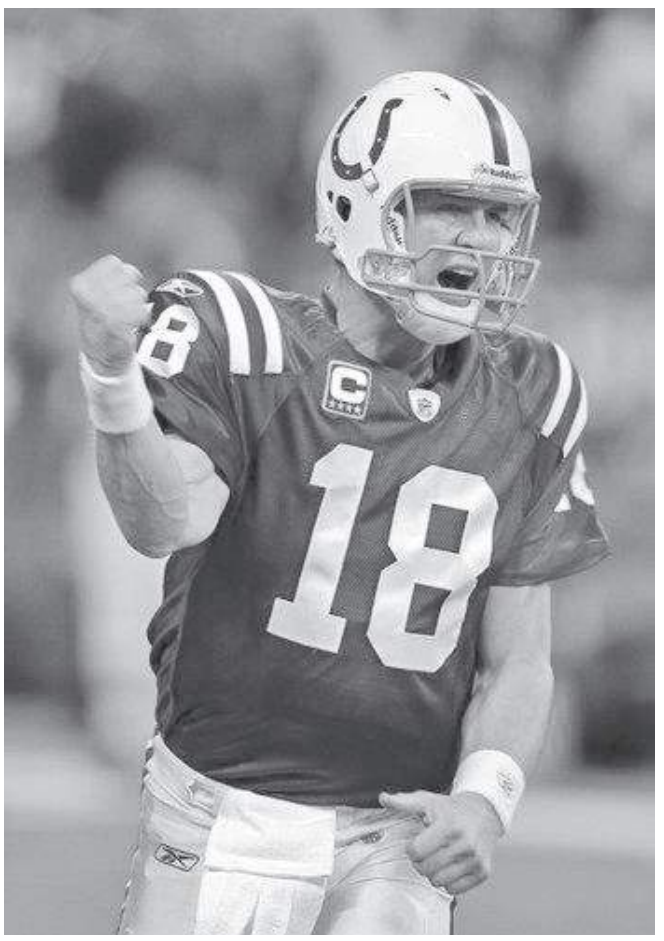
Manning's number to be retired during fall ceremony in Indy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Last fall, Peyton Manning returned to Indianapolis for a Super Bowl reunion. In October, he's coming back for some personal honors.

Team owner Jim Irsay announced Tuesday that the Colts will unveil a statue of Manning outside Lucas Oil Stadium on Oct. 7. One day later, the Colts will honor the biggest star of their Indy era by retiring the familiar No. 18 and inducting Manning into the team's ring of honor during a game against the San Francisco 49ers.

"Peyton will always be a Colt," Irsay said in a statement released by the team. "This will be an event our city, state and Colts fans around the world can celebrate and be proud of."

Four of Manning's former teammates—Marvin Harrison, Marshall Faulk, Edgerrin James and Jeff Saturday—have already been inducted into the Ring of Honor. So has Tony Dungy, the coach of Indy's only Super Bowl-winning team, and front office executive Bill Polian, who drafted Manning with the first overall pick in 1998.



AP

In this Nov. 15, 2009, file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning reacts after he threw a touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots in Indianapolis.

He will become the 14th player in the Ring of Honor—and the first Indianapolis Colts player to have his number retired.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute will be the Saturday afternoon party to show off the new statue outside Lucas Oil Stadium, a venue many believe Manning helped land more than a decade ago. Citizens and politicians around the city and state found it next to impossible to just say no to a player revered as much for his all-American personality and incredible community work as he was for his successes on the field.

But there have been some awkward moments in the Irsay-Manning relationship.

After the 2011 season, when Manning missed all 16 games with a neck injury, Irsay and Manning were involved in a public spat over the quarterback's prognosis—with the Super Bowl in town. One month later, Irsay released Manning, who wound up in Denver.

DICKINSON'S

From Page 28

hit a two-run single for the Ol'Aces and also reached off a David Quitugua single, while Shane Mendiola and Henry Fleming made it home off RBI walks for the team's five runs. Sean Rabauliman handed the Enforcers their lone run at the top of the first, as he reached off the Ol'Aces error at shortstop.

The Enforcers were then shut down in the second inning, but redeemed themselves in the next four, combining for nine runs, while yielding only one to the Ol'Aces to grab the lead and the win. The Enforcers posted four earned runs and five off the Ol'Aces miscues from the third to sixth inning, while Lizama's RBI single in the fifth inning put the latter on the board for the last time.

Comets 8, Bank of Saipan 2

In the second game, the Comets were on target early on to beat Bank of Saipan.

The Comets registered seven of their eight runs in the first three innings. Bing Nakamura blasted a two-run single and A.J. Sanchez nailed an RBI single and reached off a sacrifice out for the Comets' four runs at the top of the first. Nakamura added an RBI single, while Reid Teregeyo also scored off another sacrifice out in the second, and the Comets got one run off Bank of Saipan's error in the third for a 7-0 lead.

After two scoreless innings, Bank of Saipan managed to make only one run off Justice Aldan's run from the Comets error at the bottom of the third. Bank of Saipan continued to struggle as it was held to one run anew in the last four innings, while the Comets got the one run back off Sanchez's RBI triple in the fifth.

Sanchez and Nakamura both hit 3-for-4 at bat and combined for three runs.

PAIRE

From Page 28

other squads after earning a 6-1-1 mark in the double-round robin competition.

The Division A champion took the spring title against Kanoa FC (5-0-4), MP United-TanHoldings FC (4-1-4), and Shirley's FC (0-2-8). MPU-TanHoldings and Kanoa will play in the last game of the season on May 20 to determine the runner-up in the division.

Paire had the division crown in the bag as early as last month, but still stood out in the last stages of the competition, winning two of its final three games. The squad capped its title conquest this season with a 3-2 victory against Shirley's FC last Sunday at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

Jeraldine Castillo knocked in all the goals for Paire, making her first two in the eighth and 21st minute and completing the hat trick in the 48th. Shirley's got its two goals from Katrina Costales and Jasmine Phan in the 18th and 29th minute, respectively.

Paire had two make-up games last Sunday, but was forced to forfeit its first assignment against MP United-TanHoldings due to lack of players, while it won its other rescheduled match via forfeit versus Kanoa last Friday. Paire finished the season with 36 goals—the most by any team in the entire league—and yielded seven—the least allowed by any squad in Division A.

In other results in Division A, Kanoa notched a pair of victories over the weekend after forfeiting their game against Kanoa last Friday. Kanoa first downed Shirley's in the Saturday make-up match, 7-2, and then edged MP United-TanHoldings last Sunday, 3-2.

Phan hit the winning-goal for Kanoa in their close victory over MP United-TanHoldings, while Janelle Chojnacki scored the first two. Britanny Wally and Gillian Villagomez handed MP United-TanHoldings one goal each.

In the Kanoa-Shirley's tiff, Jeralyn Castillo led the winning team with her hat trick. Sarah Allen chipped in two, while Mikky Vargas and Khristelle Itaas added one apiece. Stephanie Lumbad and Marielle Gariguez scored the two goals in Shirley's last match in Division A.

In Division B, Shirley's faced MP United for its final game and forced a draw, 1-all.

Katherine Magat gave Shirley's the equalizer, while Isabel Dickinson scored for MP United, which finished second in the division with its 4-4-0 record. Kagman High School (3-1-4), Paire (1-4-3), and Kanoa (0-2-6) rounded out the final team standings.

Paire broke into the win column after a 2-0 triumph over Kagman last Sunday. Aaliyah Indalecio and Anisa Villagomez tallied one goal each for Paire, recording both of them in the second half.

With the pair of goals, Paire brought its total to four, avoiding the cellar, which was occupied by Kanoa after scoring only one goal. Shirley's had the most goals in the division with 19, while MP United and Kagman collected 14 and six, respectively.

LEE

From Page 28

round against Russia and lucky loser Maria Dzemeshekevich. The Russian also had a hard time in the first set of its match against the host and wild card entry Hiba El Khalifi before escaping with a 7-5, 6-3 win.

The winner of the Suger-Dzemeshekevich tiff at the upper half of the draw will face in the quarterfinals the victor of the second round match between Lee and Algeria's Lynda Benkaddour. Lee's Round 2 opponent is a wild card entry in the 32-player field and survived the opener after beating Australia's Caitlyn Portela, 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Lee also prevailed in her first match in the doubles competition.

The 15-year-old player is paired with Great Britain's Danielle Daley and they eased past Dzemeshekevich and Greece's Rafalia Nikoletta Fulop in the opening round, 6-0, 6-2. Lee and Daley are now in the quarterfinals where they will face tough opponents in No. 1 seeds Zoziya Kardava and Avelina Sayfetdinova of Russia. The Russian pair also needed only two sets to advance to the Round of 8 after outclassing Nihalani and Stein, 6-2, 6-4.

With her pair of victories in the first round, Lee is already assured of ranking points from her second Junior ITF Circuit tournament in Morocco. The CNMI player first competed in the 2017 Mediterranée Avenir last week and earned 20 ranking points for making it to the Round of 32 in the Grade 1 tournament—the highest ranking event she entered in so far. The additional points brought Lee's total from 120 to 125 in the singles and 141.25 combined points (from 136.25) and moved her up to the ladder, from No. 353 to No. 336 in the world—her highest rank.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	22	10	.688	—
New York	21	10	.677	½
Boston	17	15	.531	5
Tampa Bay	16	19	.457	7½
Toronto	12	21	.364	10½

Central Division

Cleveland	18	14	.563	—
Minnesota	16	14	.533	1
Detroit	16	15	.516	1½
Chicago	15	16	.484	2½
Kansas City	12	20	.375	6

West Division

Houston	22	11	.667	—
Los Angeles	17	18	.486	6
Seattle	16	17	.485	6
Oakland	15	18	.455	7
Texas	14	20	.412	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	21	12	.636	—
New York	16	16	.500	4½
Philadelphia	13	18	.419	7
Miami	13	19	.406	7½
Atlanta	11	19	.367	8½

Central Division

St. Louis	18	14	.563	—
Cincinnati	18	15	.545	½
Chicago	17	16	.515	1½
Milwaukee	17	16	.515	1½
Pittsburgh	14	19	.424	4½

West Division

Colorado	21	13	.618	—
Los Angeles	19	14	.576	1½
Arizona	18	16	.529	3
San Diego	13	21	.382	8
San Francisco	11	23	.324	10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MPU vs TanHoldings for Boys U17 Title

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club's Alan Hinson, left, steals the ball from an MP United FC player during the second half of their playoff match for the boys U17 division title in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Tuesday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. MP United won, 4-2.

An MP United player waits for the ball to fall.

TanHoldings' Thaiphi Austria, left, beats MP United's Skyler Poon for the ball.

Two MP United players fight a TanHoldings player for possession.

TanHoldings' Mareko Tekopua, right, eludes the defense of MP United's Eui Jin Byen.

MP United's Sunjoon Tenorio heads out of the pitch for a well-deserved rest after scoring a hat trick.

MP United's Joshua Abragan and TanHoldings' John Paul Cruz ward each other off as they battle for the ball.

MP United's Joshua Abragan stays close on defense against TanHoldings' John Michael Rojas.

Spurs overcome Leonard injury, Harden to beat Rockets in OT

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wheeler's 2-hitter leads Mets over Giants

PAGE 25

Lee stuns Spanish foe in Morocco

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee pulled off the first major upset in the ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017 after sweeping her ranked Spanish opponent in the opening round of the Grade 3 competition last Tuesday at the Oceanic Club Casablancais in Casablance, Morocco.

The unseeded Lee was pitted against No. 5 and world No. 261 Irene Garceran and recorded a 6-2, 6-3 victory to advance to the second round. Garceran was the highest-seeded player to get the early boot in the tournament, joining No. 8 Sabhyata Nihalani of India to the exit door.

With Lee's upset over Garceran, the Commonwealth player is on a collision course with No. 1 seed Sina Suger of Switzerland. The Swiss labored a 7-5 victory over the United States' Lauren Stein in the opening set and then cruised to a 6-2 triumph in the second to make it to the next

See LEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee makes a return during a Junior ITF Circuit event on Saipan last year at the Pacific Islands Club. She is in Morocco and still in contention in both the singles and doubles events of the ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017.

Paire, Shirley's top Dove women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club and Shirley's FC clinched the championships in the 2017 Dove Women's Spring League after getting the best records in their respective divisions.

Paire registered an 8-1-1 win-draw-loss mark in Division A to beat three other teams, while Shirley's prevailed against four

See PAIRE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire Football Club's Jerlyn Castillo, right, and Shirley's FC's Katrina Costales get ready for a header during the first half of their Division A game in the 2017 Dove Women's Spring League last Sunday at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

Dickinson's one-hitter lifts Falcons over Blue Jays

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spencer Dickinson nearly had a no-no, throwing a one-hitter in the Falcons' demolition of the Blue Jays, 13-0, in the Senior League division game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Dickinson, who pitched in no relief in the match that ended after only five innings, allowed a single to Dom Yumul at the bottom of the first inning while fanning out five batters. With him working the mound, the Falcons forced the Blue Jays to 1-2-3 innings in the first four and no runners from the latter moved past second base.

Jaydon Tenorio, who was hit by Dickinson's pitch at the bottom of the fifth inning, made it to second off a wild pitch, but was left stranded as Justin Camacho went down on a 4-3 putout play for the last and final out in the match. The Blue Jays' first two batters were booted out on 5-3 putout plays earlier.

While the Falcons' strong defense neutralized the Blue Jays, the latter could not return the favor to the former, as the pennant champions scored in each of the first four innings.

Dickinson and Noel Cabrera gave the Falcons three runs each and they also both hit 3-for-3 at bat. Tindin Deleon Guerrero added two runs and two RBIs off his 2-for-3 performance at the plate, while Neldreyton Skerei and Henry Aguon contributed two runs each.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Falcons' Spencer Dickinson gets ready to pitch against the Blue Jays during their third round meeting in the Senior League division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Enforcers 10, Ol'Aces 6

The Enforcers held the Ol'Aces to one run in the last six innings to take the victory.

Before stepping up their defense, the Enforcers gave up five runs to the Ol'Aces at the bottom of the first inning to fall behind, 1-5. Kiana Aldan

See DICKINSON'S on Page 26